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Where Diana grew up by Charles Spencer



FRIDAY 30p EVERY WEEKDAY

Secret letter to Smith seeks extra £15m to save opera house

By RICHARD MORRISON, ARTS EDITOR

A SECRET letter from the board of the Royal Opera House to Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, threatens that Covent Garden may be closed for ever unless the Government gives it an extra annual subsidy of up to £15 million.

ery developer. He also parted company with Mary Allen, the ROH's chief executive, and brought in a team of accountants from Coopers & Lybrand under an interim chief executive, Pelham Allen, to examine the ROH finances.



Crowning glory: Arwen Hunt, left, and Sarah Bainbridge put their heads together on Ladies' Day at Ascot yesterday. Fashion, page 3; Racing, pages 46, 47

Inquiry ordered as baby death doctors are struck off

By JAMES LANDALE, IAN MURRAY AND JOANNA BALE

FRANK DOBSON yesterday announced a public inquiry into the deaths of 29 children who had heart surgery at Bristol Royal Infirmary as three doctors who treated the children were found guilty of serious professional misconduct.

an umbrella as someone shouted: "What's it like to be in hell?" The GMC had ruled that the heart surgeon Mr Wisheart, 60, and John Roylance, 68, former chief executive of the United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust, should be struck off the medical register.

about his success rate in such surgery and had wrongly agreed that Mr Dhasmana could go ahead with a "switch" operation in spite of being aware of concerns about its success.

Woodward blames bias Louise Woodward delivered a scathing attack on the US judicial system after a tearful reunion with her family in Cheshire. She insisted that she was a victim of a miscarriage of justice, and that she would not sell her story.

Table with 2 columns: Category and Price. Includes TV & Radio, Weather, Crosswords, Letters, Obituaries, etc.

Schoolgirl, 16, elopes with lover she met on Internet

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A TEENAGE schoolgirl tried to elope with an American more than twice her age after exchanging messages over the Internet.

home. It is believed the couple were on their way to Gretna Green where they intended to marry. Kelly's grandmother, Beryl Fury, said: "Kelly is a very bright, attractive girl from a very good family but she is quite naive when it comes to boys and relationships."

World Cup tickets stolen by safe gang

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THIEVES broke into a tour operator's office in Paris early yesterday and stole 15,000 World Cup tickets, including many for England and Scotland games already paid for by British fans.

(£330,000) in cash. The company has offered a reward of FF1 million for the return of the tickets and insists that they are worthless.

Veve Clicquot advertisement featuring a champagne bottle and a horse. Text includes 'Vintage Moment', 'Vintage Clicquot', and 'CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON'.



Humble pie for Beckett, pizza with everything for Redwood

There is something admirable about Margaret Beckett. In victory or defeat she never changes. Unassuming and a little bleak, the President of the Board of Trade rises with the dawn, selects from her range of immaculate trouser-suits the outfit for the day, and strides resolutely on. Whether she is retreating or advancing you cannot tell: the jacket remains unwrinkled, composure unruffled by despair, and hair perfect.

Whatever the line may be, Beckett toes the line. Whatever

doubts she entertains, none creases her brow. Margaret Beckett could have operated in any age. She could have been Bloody Mary's Lady in Waiting, a Daughter of the American Revolution or Deputy Inspector of the Zanzibar Police.

"Forced to eat her words," shouted a spirited John Redwood, her Tory Shadow, as she set out the Government's minimum wage proposals yesterday. "Eat it!" yelled Opposition backbenches: "eat it slower!"

"She ate humble pie," jeered

Philip Hammond (C, Runnymede & Weybridge). But she ate as one of those garbage-munching trucks chews: relentless, mechanical and no sign of indigestion.

No pie for Mr Redwood: he tried to have his cake and eat it. Leaping to his feet with good jokes and good points, he did more than launch an attack: he launched two. Unfortunately they were diametrically opposed.

Someone should explain to Redwood, who is becoming a confident, springy Commons performer, that pincer move-



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

ments can be an effective military tactic — but that one man cannot in one speech comprise both arms of the pincer. Maybe his researchers had provided him with ten good arguments. Redwood chuckled them in regardless.

The result had the internal consistency of one of those order-your-own-ingredient pizzas over which the eager

diner has gone too far: anchovies, pineapples, cheese and pepperoni, chives, capers and peppers... the Tory case comprises at least two pizzas: they had better choose which.

Redwood said Beckett's proposals were a pathetic and enfeebled retreat from earlier intentions. He also said that they would devastate industry and destroy jobs. He said

unemployment would rocket. He also said that work would just switch from the official to the black economy.

He said that Mrs Beckett was yanking the British economy "back to the bad old days". He also said she had lost her grip and should "pray for an easier job in the next reshuffle".

In this last remark Mr Redwood probably did help make history. He made it harder for the Prime Minister to move her.

Fascinating to observe on the Government front bench

was Gordon Brown's body language. Seated next to Mrs Beckett, he seemed to be trying to gather himself into a little ball, hunched away from bodily contact. And he kept muttering at her as she fielded backbench inquiries — as if unconfident that she could give the correct answers on her own.

Replying to Dennis Skinner (who reminded her that ministers as well as waiters receive benefits omitted from the wage slip) she protested primly: "I don't have any recollection of being tipped." But the

Chancellor was offering her tips on every question.

Lynne Jones (Lab, Birmingham, Selly Oak, Kamikaze Squad) said she was bitterly disappointed. £3.60 was far too low. Beckett had said this was the "beginning of the end" of poverty pay — but when would it be ended "for good"?

"Anyone trying to answer that would be..." smiled Beckett — and paused. A socialist? I thought.

... treading in difficult waters," said Beckett, former socialist, emotionless.

Anger as minimum wage falls short of expectations

Business likes it but the unions don't, report Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

THE Government faced fresh attack from the unions and the Left last night after revealing that the national minimum wage would be pegged at £3.60 an hour for the foreseeable future and that younger workers would receive a reduced rate starting at £3 an hour.

The Treasury's squeeze on the recommendations from the Low Pay Commission proved even more stringent than expected as Margaret Beckett, the Board of Trade president, made plain in the Commons that the rate would not be uprated in line with inflation. It later emerged from government officials that the commission's advice that the wage should become £3.70 in 2000 was not being accepted.

Union leaders fiercely criticised the level of the wage after Mrs Beckett announced rates that she said would help some two million workers escape from poverty pay.

For adults the minimum will be £3.60 as the commission proposed. But for those aged between 18 and 21 the commission's recommendation of £3.20 an hour will be cut back. It will start at £3 from April 1999, and increase to £3.20 in June 2000. Mrs Beckett, who was overruled by Gordon Brown on key elements of the Government's response, told MPs she was

the tackling the "scandal of poverty pay". But she stressed that it needed to be set at a level that "minimised the impact on employment".

The Government said later that evidence from the old wages councils and experience overseas suggested that the sensible rates established would result in no substantial effect on employment.

Mrs Beckett, under pressure after her public defeat by the Chancellor, gave a fighting performance that won over many Labour MPs. The knowledge that she had tried to win

a better deal tempered the attitude of some, but there were sharp criticisms from left-wing MPs at the decision to cut back the pay of younger workers.

Lynne Jones, Labour MP for Selly Oak, said the announcement was "bitterly disappointing" for someone who had been elected in 1992 on a promise of a £3.40 minimum wage. Mrs Beckett bluntly retorted that Ms Jones had fought the last election on the policy that had been implemented.

John McAllion, MP for

Dundee East, said that young people would be discriminated against because of the lower rate for them. "Everyone accepts that young people undergoing training cannot expect to be paid the rate for the job. But few would accept that young people should be discriminated against simply because they are young people."

Outside the House, the reaction was more outspoken. Bill Morris, general secretary of the transport workers, said the rate of £3.60 an hour was "a missed opportunity for Britain's competitiveness and the working poor". He said: "Such a rate is an endorsement of workplace poverty and a green light to the bad employer. The commission's plan for a lower youth rate will create second-class citizens at work and any delayed implementation for the miserable £3.20 rate merely adds insult to workplace poverty."

Rodney Bickerstaffe, of Unison, welcomed the minimum wage law as an "historic victory" for the low paid, "but, and it's a very big but, I am sad and disappointed that this long-awaited law has been marred by a rate set too low — with an even lower rate for young people. Working people deserve higher. The Government could do better. The country can afford more."

The GMB said the low pay award was a "slap in the face" for Britain's youngsters. Leader John Edmonds said: "Ministers talk about a new deal but I am afraid this is a bad deal for the one million plus young people at work in Britain. It is a real slap in the face for all those youngsters working in fast-food chains up and down the country."

"For a government committed to social inclusion, this is entirely the wrong message to be sending out to a generation on which our future depends."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the NASUWT teaching union, said: "The reduced rate for younger workers is probably an own goal scored by the Government."

However, Adair Turner, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said the figure was at the top end of what was acceptable for business. "Overall it should not place too much pressure on inflation or lead to major job losses, but it will inevitably have a significant effect on some industries and in some regions."

"Any higher and we would be moving into more dangerous territory — if we are to have a minimum wage, it must be to act as a floor to the labour market and not be aimed at significantly raising the general level of wages. The level announced today allows for a reasonable and workable way forward."

The British Retail Consortium said the figure was workable and should not inhibit job creation in the retail sector. It had recommended a figure of £3.50 and said its research appeared to have influenced the Government. The Institute of Directors said that, while it agreed with the amendments to the Low Pay Commission's recommendations, it believed the minimum wage would damage job prospects and worsen the inflationary outlook.



Jayne Elliott, who lost a son, hugs her other children outside the GMC hearing

HIT SQUADS SHOULD BACK LOW PAY RECOMMENDATIONS

THOUSANDS of enforcement officers will be sent into offices throughout the country to ensure that companies implement the national minimum wage. Low pay firms could be fined £5000. The 280-page report from the Low Pay Commission, published yesterday, says that employers should be forced to display the minimum wage on their pay slips and in their premises as well as recording the number of workers affected in their annual reports. The Contributions Agency — which already analyses payroll data and checks for abnormally low wages to root out fraud — should combine with the Inland Revenue from April 1999 to take responsibility for enforcement.

The report recommends a national minimum wage of £3.70 an hour from June 2000, phased in by starting with a minimum of

£3.60 in April 1999. It also suggests that younger workers aged 18-20, and older workers taking new jobs for which they need to be trained, should be paid £3.20 in April 1999, rising to £3.30 an hour in June 2000. It advises that 21 year-olds should be paid the full rate.

As well as the minimum wage the report recommended that all those aged 16 to 17 and all those on apprenticeships should be exempt from the minimum wage and there should be a review within two years.

It claims that over two million people will benefit including 1.4 million women, more than 1.3 million part-time workers, 200,000 young people, 10,000 homeworkers, 175,000 lone parents, and 130,000 from ethnic minorities. The report estimates that the minimum wage will increase the nation's wage bill by a little over 0.5 per cent.

THE JOBS NOBODY WANTS

Public inquiry ordered as baby doctors are struck off

Continued from page 1

appeared to discourage openness and frankness about doctors' personal performances. The British Medical Association said later that new procedures to publicise performance which were now in place might have prevented the Bristol tragedy. Mr Dobson also told the Commons that the Government had already decided to set up new machinery to ensure clinical standards within the NHS.

The Health Secretary promised that the public inquiry, under the chairmanship of Professor Ian Kennedy, would cover all aspects of what went wrong at Bristol. Mr Dobson added that he had met some of the parents whose children had died and had been deeply impressed by their grief, their dissatisfaction with how they had been treated and their disillusion with the health service. "We owe it to them to make sure that lessons are learnt so that such a tragedy never occurs again."

The announcement was



Struck off: Wisheart, left, and Rylance

welcomed by the Bristol Heart Children Action Group, which had earlier called for such an inquiry in a statement issued outside the GMC, saying: "We are victims of a gross injustice — the injustice that our children were taken from us, under false pretences. This horrific tragedy has sent nothing short of an earthquake through British medicine and the reverberations are likely to be felt for years."

After the hearing, Mr

Dharmana's lawyer said: "Mr Dharmana wishes to express once again his deep regret and continuing sympathy for the families of the children where the outcome of the surgery was not successful."

Mr Wisheart's solicitor said: "His distress at today's decision is nothing compared with the death of just one of the children he set out to save, and both parents will never overcome their loss. He did his best, but he has been found wanting."

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Tories say Blair fixed Hansard

BY NICHOLAS WATT
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tories joined forces with the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists yesterday to accuse the Government of doctoring the official report of the House of Commons.

In another blow to the five-year-old cross-party consensus on Northern Ireland, the Conservatives said that crucial words were removed from the Hansard report of a reply

given by Tony Blair last month, to water down his comments on the disarming of terrorists. The allegations were made hours before the Tories voted against the third reading of the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Bill, which will lead to the early release of hundreds of terrorist prisoners.

The Tories gave strong support to claims made earlier in the Commons by the DUP that someone acting on Mr Blair's behalf altered the Hansard record of Prime Minister's Questions on May 6. A video recording of the Commons exchanges shows Mr Blair saying "Yes" to a question from William Hague on whether he agreed that terrorist prisoners should not be released until substantial disarmament had taken place. In Hansard, the words "The answer to this question is yes" have been removed.

Mr Blair's reply would have committed the Government to

no terrorist prisoner releases until substantial numbers of weapons have been handed in. The Government has tried to fudge the issue in the Bill by saying that the Northern Ireland Secretary will "take account" of whether terrorist organisations are implementing the Good Friday agreement, which calls for "decommissioning of all paramilitary arms within two years".

A Downing Street spokesman said later that the editor of Hansard maintained control over its reports. He added: "There is no question of anything being left out or added to change the meaning."

Peter Robinson, the DUP MP for East Belfast, told the Commons that "important and significant" words had been omitted from Hansard. He added: "Clearly someone acting for or on behalf of the Prime Minister has tampered with the record of proceedings in this House... Is it in order for such a serious extraction

and deletion from the record of proceedings to take place by the Government or indeed by any other Member of this House?"

Sir George Young, the Shadow Leader of the House, said: "You have raised an important issue which could impact on the peace process in Northern Ireland and which could have implications for the integrity of our own proceedings in this House."

Turning to Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, Sir George asked: "As the stakes are quite high, is not the best way to proceed for you to ask the editor of Hansard for a full report into the issue that has been raised and for you to report back to the House?"

Miss Boothroyd replied: "I intend to do just that."

Andrew MacKay, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, said: "Clearly Hansard has been doctored. It is up to the Speaker to find out why."

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Ascot racegoers spread their bets on rain, sun and cold

The most useful accessory is a man with a very large golf umbrella, reports Grace Bradberry

THE most uncertain bet any Ascot racegoer had to place yesterday was on the weather. Was it winter? Was it summer? Would it rain or merely drizzle?

Viscountess Linley, injecting some much needed glamour into the royal carriage procession, put her money on clear skies: she wore a purple cloche hat of straw mesh that came low over her face. Some onlookers compared it disparagingly to a tea cosy.

The holes were so large that even a light shower would have left her soaked. She was lucky. As she drove through, not so much as a drop fell.

The rest of her get-up was a classic British compromise — a svelte peach suit, pale enough to look summery, but warm enough to see her through a chilly afternoon.

The Queen wore a shocking pink jacket and pale pink hat, and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother a lilac suit. Next came the Princess Royal and her son Peter Phillips, making his first appearance in the procession and stamping his personality on the day in a top hat with a pink rim. While the royals have only



The smart set was out in force at Royal Ascot yesterday. Dressed for all seasons were, from left: Sharon Water, Tracey Levi, Lucy Sangster, and Sharon Walter

to brave the short carriage ride before they reach their box, others have to get from the car park to the Royal Enclosure.

The most useful accessory in such conditions is a man wielding a very large golf umbrella. Jenny Booth had risked her Philip Sommer-

ville hat and Chanel suit, safe in the knowledge that her husband Frank was on hand. The men, of course, had to fend for themselves. Alexander Flockhart, from North Berwick, had plastic wrapped around the crown of his top hat. John Cugley, another Royal Enclosure

racegoer, was more prepared than most: "I bring three hats — grey if it's chucking it down, the one I'm wearing, in black silk, if it's drizzling, and then my best hat with its own original leather box if it's a sunny day."

The smart set was out in force. "So boring, the same

old thing," remarked Andrew Parker-Bowles as he posed affably for photographers. His wife Rosemary wore a navy suit by Ulrich Engler and a navy and white hat by Gilly Forge.

Lucy Sangster, wife of Ben, wore Caroline Charles, while Fiona Sangster, wife of Guy,

wore a black and white suit with flower applique by Bruce Oldfield and a Sylvia Fletcher hat.

As ever, there were those who wanted to be seen and those who didn't. Anthea Turner slipped in at the last minute, while Tamara Beckwith arrived in good

time in a pink Gucci jacket and black trousers, and a black stonson hat.

Indeed, trousers suits, which are allowed in the Royal Enclosure, enjoyed a certain popularity. Tracey Levi ingeniously combined a black jacket by Fornes with M&S trousers to create an

Ascot maternity outfit, accessorised with a Chanel bag and pink straw hat.

By contrast, Sarah Gander, six months pregnant, managed to fit into a pink Tomasz Starzyski suit that was already in her wardrobe.

Ascot reports, pages 46, 47

Judge baffled by 'Linford's lunchbox'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE delicate question of Linford Christie's "lunchbox" puzzled a High Court judge yesterday and enraged the former champion sprinter.

It led to sharp exchanges about his physique between Christie and the armed robber turned journalist John McVicar. And it ended with Christie, 38, the 1992 Olympic 100 metres champion, telling McVicar from the witness box: "I think you are a nutcase."

Amid sniggers from the jury on the second day of the athlete's libel action, Mr McVicar suggested that Christie had a grievance against the press because sports reporters suspected him of taking performance-enhancing drugs.

Christie, the former captain of the British Olympics athletics team, angrily denied that and said: "They talk about Linford Christie's lunchbox. I don't like it. That's one of my main grievances."

"And the more you say you don't like it, the more they [the tabloid newspapers] print it." He added: "I do not make a joke about it, because I do not think it is a joke."

Mr McVicar: "But you market bananas."

Christie: "That's nothing to do with Linford Christie's lunchbox. I don't capitalise on it. I have had many occasions when people ask me to market lunchboxes and call them Linford Christie lunchboxes."



Christie in full flight last year

Mr McVicar replied: "You have joked about it on television."

Referring to one occasion when someone asked him how big his manhood was, he said Christie's reply had been: "If your girlfriend saw how big it was, she would leave you."

Christie explained: "I have tried to laugh it off and say it is a joke, but it is not a joke. I think if I make a joke of it they might go away."

He told the jury: "People ask

me how big is your dick and I say this big," stretching his arms out to their full extent.

The exchanges came as Christie was being cross-examined by Mr McVicar, who is conducting his own case about how he had developed from a "bearpole" to a 15-stone "powerhouse" and leapt from 156th in the world rankings to 4th in a year in the mid-1980s. Christie is suing Mr McVicar over claims he made in the now-defunct satirical magazine *Spiked* in 1995 that he had used drugs. In his article, "How did Christie get this good?", Mr McVicar claimed that "on the basis of circumstantial evidence, many believe but cannot prove that Christie has been taking performance-enhancing drugs."

Alleging that the athlete had outwitted drugs testers for years, he added: "His remarkable physique, in regard to both its bulk and definition, is consistent with the use of anabolic steroids."

Christie said he had built up the "musculature" of his shoulders through hard training and diet because his shoulders were the engine of his body enabling him to pump his arms harder and his legs to run faster.

He said: "I was in the gym three to four times a week, three and sometimes five hours a day, working on my top half. Weight training is only something that sprinters do in the last ten years. All the coaches say it — the faster you move your arms, the faster your legs will go."

He added: "I believe that all athletes caught with drugs should be banned for life. I think you have to have a deterrent to stop people from taking drugs."

Christie said he had never been aggressive to officials who carry out urine tests. Although he strongly disliked the testing procedure, he had always co-operated. The case continues.

"What is Linford Christie's lunchbox?" Mr Justice Popplewell

"They are making a reference to my genitals, your honour. That is a stereotype and I do not like it"

Linford Christie



Police dog loses grip on job

A POLICE dog called Storm has been sacked because it does not want to bite villains any more.

The two-year-old German Shepherd is believed to have been put off grabbing suspects' arms after an ulcer in its palate made it painful for him to clamp his jaws. But he could not be persuaded to start biting again even after a vet removed the ulcer. The Norfolk force persevered for five months before deciding it had to dismiss Storm. Sergeant Don Gyton, head of the dog section, said:

"Storm was a marvellous police dog in every other way, but we decided he could not stay with us if he was not prepared to bite. It is a relatively rare act for our dogs because most of their work is following the scent of offenders or acting as a deterrent. But police dogs have to be able to grab hold of people."

Sergeant Gyton said Storm had appeared to show perfect potential when he was given to the police by an animal shelter last year. The force spent £5,500 putting Storm and his handler through a 13-

week training course. The dog passed with flying colours and began operational duties in Dereham last July. But by the following January the problem had been discovered.

Storm has been found a post as a guard dog on a farm estate near Norwich where his new owners, Gerry and Pam Tyler, are apparently unperturbed at his lack of grip. Mrs Tyler said: "Although he is not supposed to like biting much, he still looks extremely big and fierce when he wants to."



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Pipes are calling to fulfil 1938 pledge

By ROBIN YOUNG

VETERANS of the world's first women's pipe band, which entertained audiences across the globe, were reunited yesterday as part of a pledge drawn up 60 years ago. Some 35 former members of the Dagenham Girl Pipers, who joined forces with five present members, hope to encourage more former members to attend a full reunion in 18 months' time.

The commitment, written on parchment, was signed by 55 of the teenage girls, who pledged to avoid habits that would interfere with the enjoyment of perfect good health and reunite on the steps of Dagenham Civic Centre at noon on January 1, 2000. Twenty of the original troupe are still being sought.

The girls' promise was inspired by the Rev Joseph Waddington Graves, who founded the band in 1930 with a handful of 11-year-old girls from his Sunday school class. He dressed them in kilts, gave them bagpipes and promised that if they worked hard they would one day appear in the Lord Mayor's Show in London.

The girls trained for 18 months and were the stars of the show two years later.

The band grew during the 1930s and performed before Adolf Hitler at the Winter Gardens in Berlin in 1937.



Zara Handley, 3, joins the English National Ballet's 'Lark in the Park', which offers public ballet classes in Kensington Gardens during June

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Lawrence suspects to attend inquiry

By LIN JENKINS

THE five "prime suspects" ordered before the Stephen Lawrence inquiry were told by the High Court yesterday that they must give evidence at the public inquiry into matters arising from the teenager's murder.

Lord Justice Simon Brown, sitting with Mr Justice Hooper, said that they could not be asked if they were guilty or innocent since it was the police, and not the suspects, who were under scrutiny at the inquiry. "While the inquiry involves in a real sense the trial of the police who investigated this crime it is in no sense a trial of these people and it must not be allowed to become one," he said.

The decision was welcomed by the Lawrence family, whose private prosecution against all five did not result in a conviction, and by lawyers acting for the five.

Neil Accourt, 22, his brother Jamie, 21, Luke Knight, 20, David Norris, 21, and Gary Dobson, 22, were not in the High Court for the ruling. They had challenged the legality of the decision to summon them to attend.

They will now give evidence to the inquiry at Elephant and Castle, South London, next week. They have immunity from their answers being used as evidence against them, but should they refuse to answer questions, they could be fined or jailed.

Neville Lawrence, 51, and his wife Doreen, 45, were in court for the ruling. Their son was stabbed in a racist attack in April 1993 at a bus stop in Eltham, southeast London. Mr Lawrence said afterwards: "They will have to come. We are pleased about that." The judge had said that it was for Sir William Macpherson, inquiry chairman, to exercise his discretion over which questions to allow. He said that Sir William had already stated publicly that it was not to be a trial of the five "prime suspects".

"The temptation to use the applicants' appearance to explore in depth their involvement in this appalling killing, acute though it is given one's profound lack of sympathy for them, must be firmly resisted. One might expect if they were innocent they would be clamouring for the chance to proclaim their innocence and clear their names. That is not their position and their rights must be respected."

He added that Edmund Lawson, QC, counsel to the inquiry, had said that their statements indicated that they denied involvement in the crime, therefore "it must be doubted in reality whether their evidence would in any event be of much value."

He concluded: "I would be surprised if the chairman thought these applicants' evidence of sufficient assistance to justify more than a very few hours of the inquiry's time."



Neville Lawrence: he is pleased with the ruling

Nurse to face theft charges next month

LUCILLE McLAUCHLAN, the Scottish nurse freed from a Saudi Arabian jail after being convicted for her role in the killing of an Australian colleague, will appear in court next month on theft charges (Gillian Harris writes).

Ms McLauchlan, 32, did not appear at Dundee Sheriff Court yesterday for the brief procedural hearing before Sheriff Alexander Eccles. William Boyle, her lawyer, said she and Grant Ferrie, her husband, who married in Damman central prison last November, were abroad. He said the case had been adjourned for four weeks to allow time to prepare. "My client has not seen the charges yet. It's as simple as that."

It is alleged that Ms McLauchlan stole a diary and a bank card that she used to obtain £1,960 while she was working as a nurse at King's Cross Hospital in Dundee, in March 1996.

Ms McLauchlan returned to Britain last month with Deborah Parry. They were jailed in December 1996 following the death of an Australian nurse, Yvonne Gilford.

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Palace accuses newspaper over Prince's privacy

OFFICIALS at St James's Palace have made their first formal complaint over what they regard as intrusion into Prince William's privacy at Eton.

They have written to the Press Complaints Commission alleging that an article in *The Mail On Sunday*, published at the weekend to celebrate the prince's 16th birthday this Sunday, broke the industry's voluntary code of practice on the privacy of children in full time education.

Staff at the Prince of Wales's office, who look after Prince William's public interests, took particular exception to the newspaper's claim that a private secretary vetted young girls who had caught Prince William's eye, and then invited suitable candidates to tea with him. "This is grossly intrusive, and gruesomely embarrassing to a boy who is not yet 16; above all, it is completely untrue," a senior member of the Prince's staff said last night.

Sandy Henney, press secretary to the Prince of Wales, said that the Palace had found especially offensive the assertions about "what William

Mail on Sunday claims feature was a warm tribute to William, reports Alan Hamilton

may do or may not do or think or may not think."

The PCC has passed on the complaint to the Editor of *The Mail On Sunday*, Jonathan Holborow. It is expected to arrange a meeting between the two sides within the next few days to discover whether the Palace will want a public apology in the newspaper, or will accept a private apology and written assurance that there will be no further intrusion.

In a statement last night, *The Mail On Sunday* said that the supplement had been intended as a "warm tribute" to the prince and the entire Royal Family and applauded his achievements. "The Mail

On Sunday never wished, nor now wishes, to depart from the guidelines laid down from time to time by the Commission. As with all complaints, the PCC endeavours to resolve matters directly. A meeting is being arranged to do this."

When Prince William first went to Eton, Lord Wakeham, the PCC chairman, issued a stern warning to editors that he should be left in peace. Since then the prince has been left almost entirely undisturbed. Conscious, however, of widespread public interest in him, St James's Palace will issue a list of facts about the prince to coincide with his birthday.

By a curious irony, the Prince of Wales last week offered a warm tribute to the death of Sir David English, Editor-in-Chief of Associated Newspapers, *The Mail on Sunday's* parent company. Sir David had chaired a PCC committee, which greatly strengthened the privacy guidelines on children following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The new guidelines advise editors not to photograph or interview children who are still in full time education without the consent of parents or other responsible adults. When information about the private life of a child is to be published, the justification that he has famous or notorious parents is no longer sufficient, and there must be an exceptional case of public interest.

A spokesman for the PCC said last night: "Royal complaints are no different from any other. In this case, as with all complaints, we will firstly seek to see whether an amicable resolution is possible."



Children greet the Prince of Wales on a tour of the Marsh Farm estate at Luton, scene of violence in 1995

Prince sees estate reborn after riots

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE Prince of Wales yesterday visited a once notorious housing estate, where money from his youth business trust is helping to rebuild community spirit.

Three years ago the Marsh Farm estate at Luton, Bedfordshire, erupted in violence, the result of high unemployment and a long, hot summer. Worldwide media attention was briefly focused on its 11,000 residents, its ethnic mix and its higher-than-average deprivation.

Since then the local authority and the Prince's Trust have worked to restore hope and pride with a range of small-scale projects, backed by a £700,000 government regeneration grant. Residents, who turned out in their hundreds to welcome the Prince despite persistent drizzle, say that things are better.

Among those the Prince met was Gulam Kadib, 21, who has set up a funeral service for Luton's substantial Muslim community. "I went to the bank for a loan, but they told me I was too young to start such a sensitive business. Then I went to the Prince's Trust, and they backed me all the way, with a grant and a £5,000 loan."

The Prince also encountered Lee Ringo Brown, a conjur whose real name is Lee Marsh, 25. He set up in business as an entertainer with a £1,500 grant and a £3,500 loan from the trust.



Prince William and Jonathan Holborow

Ex-MI5 agent says IRA bomb was avoidable

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER MI5 officer being investigated by Scotland Yard Special Branch for a suspected breach of the Official Secrets Act, has made new claims against his previous employers over an IRA bomb attack in the City of London.

David Shayler, who has so far escaped arrest by staying at a secret address in France, has said that he has drawn up two dossiers, one on MI5 "operational inefficiency" and another on the Security Service's "management malpractice". He told *The Times* yesterday that he had not sent the operational dossier to anyone, although he refers to two items in the file in an article in *The Spectator* today.

He wrote: "It details how an IRA member was able to carry out large-scale attacks which threatened public safety and lives because an intelligence agency had not passed on relevant information quickly enough." He also claimed that the bomb attack in Bishopsgate in April 1993 which killed one person and injured almost 50, and caused £1 billion in damage, "shouldn't have happened".

MI5 took over responsibility for intelligence-gathering on Irish terrorism on the mainland from the Metropolitan Police Special Branch in 1992/93. There were indications at the time of the bomb that the security authorities had been following a suspected Irish terrorist in London.

Mr Shayler is prevented by a High Court injunction from revealing any information about his past employment with MI5, other than what has already appeared. The injunction was served because an



Shayler: has compiled Security Service dossiers

article in *The Mail on Sunday* last year was judged to have contained intelligence material that put an undercover operation at risk.

In *The Spectator*, he says he sent his dossier criticising MI5 administration, to John Alpass, the Cabinet Office's intelligence coordinator who is conducting a review of MI5, MI6 and GCHQ, the signals intelligence centre, as part of the Government's spending review.

It is understood that Richard Tomlinson, the former MI6 officer recently been released on licence after serving part of a 12-month sentence for breaching the Official Secrets Act when he tried to publish a book on his career, has also sent a report to Mr Alpass. The results of the review are due to become known next month.

Mr Shayler says in his article that his attempts to give evidence to the Parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee, which provides oversight of MI5, MI6 and GCHQ, were ignored.

Police are investigated over links with drugs

BY RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT

FOUR police officers are being investigated over alleged links with suspected drug smuggling following a secret inquiry set up by their own chief constable.

The CID officers in the Cleveland force based in Middlesbrough have been served with disciplinary notices arising from the collapse of a drug-smuggling case.

One officer has been suspended from duty as a result of the inquiry set up by Barry Shaw, the chief constable of Cleveland.

The latest investigation concerns the collapse of a case in 1993 in which Brian Charrington was accused of plotting to smuggle cocaine worth £150 million into the UK. Mr Charrington allegedly travelled to Colombia to set up a deal with a drugs cartel but he was under surveillance by Customs.

The Customs said the evidence against Mr Charrington and Curtis Warren, an associate, was strong but two police officers from the North East Regional Crime Squad said that Mr Charrington was a valued informant. Charges against him were dropped and the case against Warren collapsed. In 1997 Warren was jailed for 12 years in The Netherlands after being convicted of plotting to flood the UK with cocaine, heroin, hashish and Ecstasy. Mr Charrington disappeared and is now in Spain.

A Cleveland Police spokesman said their inquiry was part of "continuing and concerted efforts to look carefully at the activities of a small number of officers".

Boy shot during rifle test

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A PUPIL at a public school is recovering in hospital after being accidentally shot during a physics experiment.

Michael Hobbs, 16, was one of four boys at Bryanston School, near Blandford, Dorset, who were trying to calculate the speed of a rifle bullet as part of their physics A Level. The lesson on the school rifle range went wrong when the weapon fired unexpectedly, and Michael was hit in the shoulder as he operated some of the equipment. An investigation by Dorset

Police and the Health and Safety Executive is now under way into the incident, which happened at about 6pm on Wednesday. The weapon, a .22 calibre target rifle, has been seized by police for examination by a firearms specialist.

Peter Hardy, 43, a spokesman for the school, said: "The experiment was being carried out on a rifle range by a pupil who was captain of the school's shooting club and has a firearms certificate. After various tests had

been conducted, for reasons yet to be resolved, the rifle went off and the boy whose task it was to operate the computer equipment was hit in the shoulder.

"The boy, accompanied by his friend, walked to the sanatorium and subsequently was taken to Poole hospital, where he was joined by his mother. Later he was transferred to Southampton General Hospital."

A hospital spokesman last night described the boy's condition as stable.



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Some of the 3,000 delegates at the Townswomen's Guild meeting show their support for a campaign to reduce road traffic yesterday

Townswomen take road to radicalism

By DEBORAH COLCUTT

MEMBERS of the Townswomen's Guilds revealed a new radicalism yesterday when they voted in favour of legalising cannabis for medical use and called for cuts in car use.

Almost three-quarters of delegates at the guild's national council meeting in Birmingham approved a motion backing the legalisation of cannabis for people suffering from serious and terminal illnesses.

Guild members had been urged to

show "common sense and compassion" by a multiple sclerosis victim who told them how cannabis had relieved the pain of the disease. Clare Hodges, a 38-year-old mother-of-two, confessed to using cannabis for the last seven years. Mrs Hodges, director of the Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics, said: "I have had MS for 16 years and the condition has got worse. After nine years I read an article about how cannabis would help and I tried it as a last resort. It helped me greatly."

Delegates at the International Con-

vention Centre heard how Queen Victoria was prescribed marijuana. One woman, from Torbay, Devon, told the 3,000-strong meeting: "Louis Armstrong smoked it all his life and it didn't impair his performance."

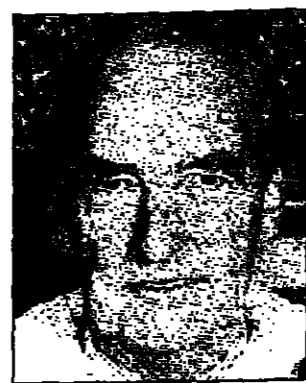
The delegates voted by 1,163 to 437 in favour of the motion. Afterwards, Peter Stoker of the National Drug Prevention Alliance, who opposed the motion, accused Mrs Hodges and the Townswomen of being "sucked into" the publicity campaign backed by "pot addicts". He said: "This is the accept-

able face of cannabis as sold to the general public but there is still no clinical evidence which proves that cannabis or its derivatives can alleviate the wide range of illnesses claimed by the pro lobby."

Delegates also staged a demonstration in support of their campaign to cut road traffic. The guild is campaigning for a fully integrated transport policy. The leadership believes that discussion of "important, pertinent" issues will help its drive to recruit younger members.

Lords officials slashed QCs' legal aid fees

Inquiry chairman finds the disparity between bills and payment "shattering", reports Frances Gibb



Browne-Wilkinson: no criticism of QCs

A SENIOR law lord yesterday expressed astonishment at what he called the "shattering" disparity between legal aid bills submitted by top QCs for murder appeals and the sums they were allowed.

Michael Mansfield, QC, currently acting in the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, claimed £20,000 from legal aid for a week's preparation for a case and one day in court. Five law lords were told. Officials at the House of Lords reduced the claim — which works out at £416 an hour — to £10,000.

Mr Mansfield's bill was one of four that prompted the Appeal Committee at the House of Lords — the highest court in the land — to hold an inquiry into legal aid fees for appeals.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson, who is chairing the inquiry, said that not one of the large bills submitted by the four silks had been allowed by officials. "All the information shows quite astonishing fees were claimed compared with what was subsequently allowed," he said. "Not a single fee claimed by counsel has been allowed... It is pretty shattering, in my view."

The inquiry was prompted by a request for guidance by Michael Davies, the Clerk of the Parliaments who has overall responsibility for the "taxing" of the bills. It coincides with concern within the Government over legal aid and the Lord Chancellor's expressed wish to curb high fees.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson

asked yesterday how the "right" fee was arrived at.

James Munby, QC, for the four QCs, admitted that barristers' clerks put in for what they thought their "governor" was worth. The right fee, he said, was "an elusive concept" and ultimately the only way a barrister or his clerk could arrive at it was by looking at what had been allowed in similar cases.

He emphasised — and the law lords agreed — that there was no criticism of the four QCs concerned or suggestion that they had acted improperly in any way. They were feeling "battered and very distressed" by press headlines such as "The four fat cats who shame the law", he said. But in none of the cases had figures been "simply plucked from the air".

The Lord Chancellor was represented yesterday by Nigel Pleming, QC, whose unenviable task it was to

expose for the first time details of his Bar colleagues' claims for their work.

He said that the average day before the law lords lasted five hours, giving a total worked by Mr Mansfield of 48 hours. He had also claimed £1,000 a day for the subsequent two days of the hearing, which officials had allowed.

Mr Pleming said that another leading QC, Richard Henriques, claimed £288 an hour brief fee for another murder case appeal heard by the law lords. He had worked 80.5 hours to prepare, at a self-assessed rate of £175 per hour, then added a 65 per cent uplift in order to reflect the care control and conduct of a case in the House of Lords. He had added in expenses and rounded the total up to £25,000. That claim had not yet been approved.

In the case of two men accused of shooting dead a drug dealer in a row over a debt, Peter Feinberg, QC, for the defence, and his junior, Benjamin Squirrell, had claimed brief fees of £15,000 between them at the six-day Old Bailey trial in February 1994. They had been allowed £10,500.

After the men had been convicted, Mr Feinberg and Mr Squirrell had taken the case to the Court of Appeal where they had claimed £7,500 and been allowed £4,000. When the case had gone to the House of Lords for a three-day hearing last February, they had claimed a total of £69,311 — more than four times the brief fees at the original trial — for preparatory work and the first day.

After "taxing" by Lords officials, they had been allowed £28,341.42 — a cut of 60 per cent. They had also been paid daily "refreshers" for each extra day in court which for Mr Feinberg had amounted to £1,000 a day.

Earlier, Mr Pleming was challenged by the law lords as to why the Lord Chancellor, as guardian of the public purse, was not suggesting what he wanted done about the fees in the four cases.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson said: "What does cause me concern is that here we have a hearing and the only person concerned to protect the public purse is the Lord Chancellor's Department and you have no instructions about what is to be done about the appeals on the table."

The law lords are expected to issue a report at a later date.

BILL SETTLEMENTS

Michael Mansfield, QC: £20,000 (43 hours plus one day in court) cut to £10,000; two days at £1,000 each, allowed.
Junior Vera Behrd: £20,000 (30 hours) cut to £8,000; two days each at £225 cut to £500 each.
Gordon Ross: £16,000 (22 hours) cut to £8,000; one day at £500, one at £300, allowed at £500 each.
Peter Feinberg, QC: £35,000 (hours not listed) cut to £14,000; two days at £1,000 each, allowed.
Benjamin Squirrell: £23,333 (hours not listed) cut to £8,000; £10,978 for 79 hours on drafting, consultation etc, reduced to £8,341.42; two days each at £866; allowed.
Christopher Salton, QC: £30,000 (109 hours) cut to £18,000; three days at £1,000 each, allowed.
Julian Knowles: £15,000 (14 1/2 hours) cut to £11,000; two days at £500, allowed.
Richard Henriques, QC: £25,000 (80.5 hours) bill not yet approved; two days at £1,500 each, not yet approved.
Ian McMeekin: £16,500, bill not yet approved; two days at £750 each, plus one at £500 for attending judgment, not yet approved.

Boyfriend cleared of passing on illness

By A CORRESPONDENT

A JUDGE called yesterday for a change in the law after he was required to release without trial a man accused of infecting his girlfriend with a potentially fatal disease.

The 25-year-old man, who can be referred to only as "R", was said to have given his 16-year-old girlfriend, who was pregnant with their child, hepatitis B as a result of unprotected sex. He was charged with causing the girl grievous bodily harm in 1995 and 1996.

However, after legal arguments at York Crown Court, Judge Jonathan Crabtree ruled that, as the law stood, reckless sex was not an offence and the accused could not be tried as charged. As a result, the prosecution offered no evidence against R, from Newcastle upon Tyne, and he was formally found not guilty.

Judge Crabtree said that the Home Office, which is considering new laws on offences against the person, had expressed interest in the case. He added: "They ought to introduce an offence of reckless transmission of disease. It is a matter for the politicians."

He said that R had, at one time, pleaded guilty to an offence of causing actual bodily harm to the girl. However the Lord Chief Justice had stepped in and ruled that the charge was inappropriate and gave the accused the opportunity of withdrawing his original plea.

Judge Crabtree said that the girl and the child were infected but had now been declared free of the disease.

THE TIMES

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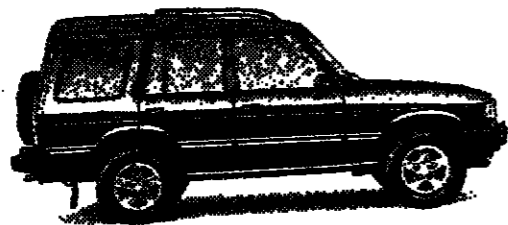
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Woodward claims evidence was lost

Au pair attacks trial bias, write Russell Jenkins and Tunku Varadarajan

LOUISE WOODWARD delivered a scathing attack on the American judicial system yesterday after a tearful reunion with her family, insisting that she was a victim of a miscarriage of justice.

The au pair spoke of her happiness at returning home and claimed that she had been branded a child killer before her trial even started. Miss Woodward, 20, was adamant that she would not sell her story to a newspaper, and said that at a later BBC interview she would talk in detail about her ordeal.

She appealed to the "scientific community" to join the campaign to prove her innocence.

After an assured performance at a packed press conference at Manchester airport, she left with her parents, Susan, 40, and Gary, 41, to be driven in convoy along a rain-swept M56 to the family home at Ellon, Cheshire.

She passed a forest of yellow ribbons in the village but, in the mid-morning drizzle, few supporters lined the route. At home she was embraced by her sister, Vicky, 19.

Miss Woodward, whose conviction for the involuntary manslaughter of eight-month-old Matthew Eappen was upheld this week by the Massachusetts Supreme Court, was home after 718 days. She

said she hoped her experience in America "had changed her for the better".

Obviously tired and with eyes red-rimmed, she said at the airport: "I am very pleased to be home on English soil. I have really missed the place. I would like to thank all the people who have supported me and all the people who have helped me with my defence."

"I would just like to say, contrary to any rumours or any speculation that I have heard in America, I have not sold my story. As far as interviews are concerned, I am going to be doing an interview with the BBC for which I will receive no payment," Miss

Woodward claimed that the prosecution lost scientific evidence. Asked how she intended to clear her name, she replied: "The medical evidence is the only thing that can do this. With the missing medical evidence, I did not receive a fair trial and the only way to do it now is to educate people."

"I am all in favour of educating people about shaken-baby syndrome, because I think there really is not enough known about it, and hopefully prevent mistakes being made and a rush to judgement, as in my case."

She was later questioned on how she felt about returning to Britain pursued by headlines describing her as a child killer.

"I put it down to the atrocious pre-trial publicity I received in America. I was thrown in jail and not given a chance. The only way I could get my side across was to give away my entire defence."

"My voice was taken away from me. The prosecution are elected in Boston and it is purely political. I didn't get my say until the trial and by then it was too late. The jury pool was tainted."

She spoke of how her two years in Massachusetts had changed her: "I have grown up an awful lot. I know too much about American law. I hope it will have changed me for the better. I guess only time will tell how it has really changed me."

In Elton, Christine Gray, 49, a member of the appeal committee, said that the small turnout was not a vote of no confidence. "The reason so few people are out here is because they respect her position so much. They want Louise to be alone with her family."

Members of the campaign group Playpen, set up after Miss Woodward's arrest, met Hattie Hamman, the Social Security Secretary, yesterday to ask for tighter controls on child carers.

Leading article and Letters, page 25



Louise Woodward, left, is embraced by her sister Vicky at their home yesterday

Welcome home that was not quite what it seemed

BY MARIA ALVAREZ

IT WAS long anticipated in the US that the angelic, chubby-faced teenager would return home to long-awaited embraces and tears from her friends.

Instead there were worn and dirty yellow ribbons along the roadside. The Rigger pub, where Americans expected to see jubilant British supporters claiming a victory, was closed.

American reporters had been told about a young, naive village girl from a struggling working-class family whose only means to see America was to become an au pair who would have to toil away caring for two children in a strange home. But it became obvious yesterday that the real story was very different.

The Woodwards live in a spacious brick two-floor, single family home with a two-car garage. The family has achieved middle-class status.

Louise Woodward's public image in America started with disbelief that the cherub-faced girl — a child herself — could have caused the death of eight-month-old Matthew Eappen. Americans were charmed by her British accent and strong composure, which many of us admired as a demonstration of true British grit.

Many took pity on the young lass that was thrown into a Massachusetts prison but that all changed when her conviction was reduced from murder to manslaughter. Added to that, the cheering British crowds and criticisms of the US court system that failed and evoked a miscarriage of justice sparked a change of opinion.

The tide was turning. Miss Woodward had become another O.J. Simpson. Her US departure was welcomed but it also meant that the truth may never be learnt as to how Matthew Eappen died.

✪ Maria Alvarez is a New York Post journalist who covered the Louise Woodward trial in Massachusetts.

DOUBTS CAST ON MEDICAL CLAIMS

A review of shaken baby syndrome, commissioned by the *New England Journal of Medicine*, has cast doubt on claims by Louise Woodward's team that Matthew Eappen died from an earlier injury (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Christian Duhaime, Cindy Christian, Lucy Balian Rourke and Robert Zimmerman — doctors from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia — do not believe that a head injury could show no symptoms for three weeks, then bleed and cause death. In 95 injured children they found "no evidence of a prolonged interval of lucidity between the injury and the onset of symptoms."

However Dr Ayub Ommaya, a Washington neurosurgeon who testified for Miss Woodward, said a larger study was needed. "You can't make a claim that you can't have a lucid interval. There are cases of lucid intervals."

Cheshire girl braves media bearpit with lucid poise

Tunku Varadarajan watches a spirited self-defence brimming with artless vigour

SHE surprised us all again. Just when we expected her to be weary and weak, her strength sapped by a long flight and the relentless attention of the world's media, Louise Woodward put up a performance at her press conference yesterday that was brimming with vim, poise and no small degree of panache.

Miss Woodward was a star turn. With some 200 journalists from Britain and America — cameramen, radio reporters, television anchors, scribblers — encircling her like a shoal of piranhas, she spoke for five minutes on the events of the

last 17 months, events that catapulted her from an au pair's anonymity to being a global talking point.

Miss Woodward spoke clearly and simply. She spoke in complete sentences, using language that was at once artful and artless. Her phrases were short, and carried an obvious rhetorical vigour. "I do not think I got a fair trial," she said twice. If she had been coached, she might have said "There was a serious miscarriage of justice" or

employed some other orotund formula. But her words were her own.

There was no prepared statement. She had before her no more than a few scribbled words, from which she wove a spirited self-defence. She waded into the American judicial system, saying that her prosecution was "political". She described the jury pool as "tainted", a word with more nuances and subtlety than "biased" or "prejudiced", words that she did not use.

Only once did her calm appear to break, when a journalist asked her whether she had a message for the Eappens, whose baby died at her hands. "No," she said, with vehemence, defiance and a clear trace of bitterness. Clearly, they are now the enemy, her tormentors, and she was not about to float a graceful platitude in their direction.

As much as her words, Miss Woodward's accent betrayed her recent history. When she went to

America in the summer of 1996, she spoke like a Cheshire girl would. Now her speech was blended with the sounds of East Coast America.

There were also flashes of humour. When asked whether she had changed, she said: "I have grown up an awful lot. And I know a lot more about American law." The room, packed to the rafters with men and women of little or no sentiment — many of whom believe that she "got off lightly" — broke

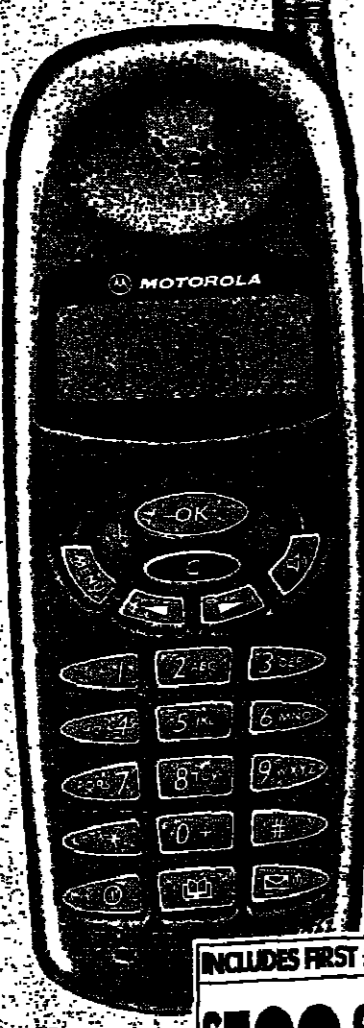
into a spontaneous laugh. There it was, British irony. With that one remark, she had affirmed her status as "one of us". In the battle for hearts and minds that she must now fight, it was a master stroke.

For those who watched her give evidence in court in the course of her trial, Miss Woodward's performance only confirmed the impression she gave in Cambridge, Massachusetts. This apparently shy, gawky girl is in fact truly articulate — perhaps disconcertingly so. She was never stumped in court and she was not stumped yesterday.

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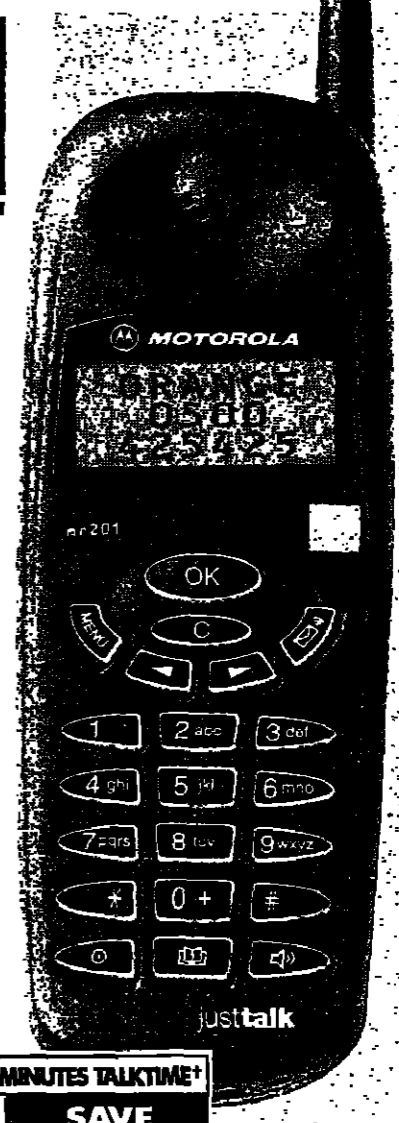
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Hague defies the critics and gambles on the waiting game

YOU don't need to be big to win in judo, just quick, so it is no surprise that William Hague has taken up the oriental martial art to prepare himself for the fight ahead.

The secret of judo is to use your opponent's strength against him. Faced with a Government that has a huge majority and an even more impressive opinion poll lead, that is just what the youngest leader of the Opposition this century is trying to do. He believes that Labour's dominance has led to arrogance and that will be the Government's undoing.

It is a year since Hague beat off the Clarke-Redwood pact to become leader of the Tory party. During that time the Conservatives have become, if anything, less popular in the polls than when they were sent packing by the voters in May last year. But those close to the Tory leader believe that he can take advantage of more favourable underlying trends.

The attack that the Tories have found plays best with their focus groups is the charge that power has gone to Labour heads. The Conservative leadership wants to focus on Labour's failure to match its ambitious talk on health, education and welfare with solid achievement. They also want to focus on the creeping redistribution engineered by the Chancellor.

But in conversations with Conservatives outside the leader's circle, the focus returns to Hague's failure to lift the party out of its persistent trough of unpopularity. There are three criticisms that recur. The first is that he lacks gravitas and impact, the second that he is too extreme, especially on Europe, and the third that he has been too keen to apologise and to reform his party while being insufficiently aggressive toward Labour.

For Tories inclined to dismiss their leader as lightweight, two images and one

On the anniversary of the Tory leader's election, Michael Gove looks at early gaffes and the hopes of long-term gains

interview linger in the mind. Hague's appearance on a water chute in a baseball cap, his attendance at the Notting Hill carnival and his underwhelming response to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, are cited as evidence that he has been promoted ahead of time and beyond his talents. In the words of one activist, "compared to Blair, he hasn't got the star quality a modern party leader needs".

Hague allies acknowledge there have been fumbles but point out that they occurred early in his leadership, before he had a chance to establish

the lifetime of the next Parliament has been criticised as a one-way bet on the failure of the euro. The opposition to Hague's line from the party's elder statesmen is used by critics to undermine his alleged immaturity.

But Hague's allies are bullish. They are convinced not just that a majority of the voters are naturally sceptical but that they will respect a clear line from the Tories which contrasts with the coded approach of the Prime Minister.

As for splits, they are disdainful of internal opposition. One points out: "We were told there would be a major split but there is only a tiny rump of grumblers. We were told we couldn't impose a three-line whip against the Amsterdam treaty, but in the end the pro-Europeans fell into line. We were told there would be blood on the carpet in our MEP selection battle, but the candidates who have done well are those who back William."

If the leadership is unapologetic on Europe, it is inclined to be, in the eyes of some, too ready to apologise for everything else. Every one of Hague's major platform speeches has included an apology for past Tory mistakes and some activists are demoralised by the strategy.

For Hague, however, the apologising isn't over. As one aide puts it: "We've got to show the country we've changed since 1997. The internal reforms help but we've got to take our message to the country. The critics may not like it but they should realise that we're not being weak. Many of the things we got wrong were a consequence of abandoning traditional Tory



Hague's search for the right public image: informality at the Notting Hill carnival, above; wearing his notorious baseball cap at a Cornish theme park; and a switch to formality at his marriage to Ffion Jenkins



principles. Natural Conservatives voters should appreciate that."

There are signs that traditionalist critics of Hague are coming round: Nicholas Soames, the pro-European High Tory who personified unease with the Conservatives' current modernisation when he refused to attend last

year's bonding session in Eastbourne, has apparently been convinced by Alan Clark and other grandees to come this year.

The launch of a policy review should help to give the impression of intellectual vitality and there are reports of new Tory groups emerging attracted by Hague's unstiff-

ness. Some younger activists from both left and right of the party are planning to start a magazine and a discussion network loosely modelled on the Blairite circle Nexus, which contributed to new Labour's renaissance.

Hague plans to spend the first anniversary of his leadership election today in his

native Yorkshire, "quietly working away" with no celebration planned. Waiting for the opponent to lose his balance requires patience, but Hague feels his party is in a far better state to strike than most would have predicted 12 months ago.

Leading article, page 25.

A leader still in search of popular appeal

By TIM HAMES

THERE are only two things wrong with William Hague on television, a Conservative public relations specialist confided, "his body and his voice — apart from that, he's fine". An exaggeration, perhaps, but a reflection of the concern that the Tory leader has not found a way of presenting himself on television.

It is a concern now shared by the Hague entourage. Twelve months after his elevation, Conservative pollsters know that many voters have formed a sketchy and mostly negative impression. The expression "not much personality" is frequently to be found in focus group reports.

It has driven his inner circle to distraction. Mr Hague is, after all, an impressive figure at the dispatch box of the House of Commons. He is a compelling public speaker and very personable.

His advisers have searched for a successful style and discreetly taken soundings from image consultants. At first they decided to emphasise informality. This short-lived experiment ended after a disastrous appearance at a theme park sporting a baseball cap. The leader looked, in the words of a close colleague, "a juvenile prat". A similar stunt at the Notting Hill carnival attracted distinctly mixed reviews.

It was then decided to build up his marriage to Ffion Jenkins as the political wedding of the century. The photographs of the bride were appealing enough; the shots of the groom were less convincing. His upper body resembled a toothy ping-pong ball with a button-hole.

For most of this year, a more serious and substantive image has been courted. Mr Hague scored a triumph with an effective appearance on the Parkinson chat show. On the whole, though, he has left the impression of young fogeyism with the electorate. "It is" another PR specialist said, "something of an achievement to be seen as a seven-year-old one year and about 87 years old nine months later."

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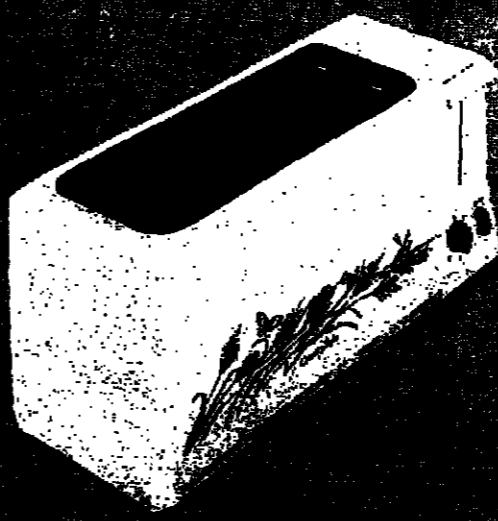
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JUNE 19 1998
A leader still in search of popular appeal

Plants suffer for alternative medicine

A new study has found that 150 European species are in danger from pickers. Nick Nuttall reports

THE boom in alternative therapies and herbal medicines is putting many species of wild plant at risk, according to a report out today.

At least 150 European species, many of which are imported into Britain, are said to be in danger. They include pheasant's eye, used for chronic heart conditions and collected from southern Europe to western Siberia, and yellow gentian, which grows from the slopes of the Pyrenees to the Carpathian mountains: its leaves are used for a range of preparations, including stimulating digestion.

Researchers and wildlife groups are calling for better monitoring of the trade, tighter customs controls, the setting up of protected areas in countries where the picking of wild plants for medicines is popular, and schemes that guarantee the plants are from a sustainable source.

Sally Nicholson, conservation officer at the World Wide Fund for Nature, which has part-funded the plant study, said yesterday: "The threat is both over-harvesting and the way in which the plants are picked. You do not need to dig up the whole plant if you only need the seeds or leaves."

She said the study reflected concern for wild plants in several countries, including

Albania, Turkey and parts of southern and eastern Europe. By contrast, in France and Bulgaria there was far greater regulation. In France, pickers are licensed to harvest wild flowers in national parks under well-managed schemes. In Bulgaria, one of the biggest exporters in Europe, wild flower quotas operate that are adjusted annually depending on the estimated crops.

The study, the first of its kind, has been carried out by Traffic, a Cambridge-based organisation that monitors the worldwide trade in plants and animals and is funded by WWF and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, a body representing thousands of scientists and government agencies. It will be presented at the first International Symposium on the Conservation of Medicinal Plants in Trade in Europe at Kew Gardens next week.

The study has found that the picking and harvesting of wild plants in Britain, which can be dated back to at least the 9th century, is a cottage industry compared with mainland Europe. About 4,000 tonnes of seaweed, mainly kelp and knotted wrack, is harvested in the Western Isles and processed into food, textiles and drugs. There is also a small industry harvesting about 60



Medicinal plants that are under threat from over-harvesting in Europe include, left to right, liquorice, mountain tobacco and bogbean

tonnes of elderflower for tinctures, remedies and drinks.

Britain, however, is among the world's top 12 importers of wild plants, bringing in more than 7,400 tonnes a year. It exports about 600 tonnes a year in the form of medicines and processed products.

Germany tops the Euro-

pean table, importing 45,400 tonnes. Between 1992 and 1996, imports in Europe rose by 21 per cent from 109,000 tonnes to 132,000 tonnes.

The report says that 25 per cent of Britons use herbal remedies regularly. The growth in interest has prompted farmers and growers in

Norfolk and Suffolk to switch from traditional crops to cultivating herbs and aromatic plants, a trend researchers hope will help to preserve species in the wild.

Apart from pheasant's eye and yellow gentian, other threatened European species imported into Britain include

mountain tobacco, or arnica, which is used to treat bruises; bearberry, whose dried leaves are used to treat inflammation of the urinary tract; round-leaved sundew, for bronchitis, asthma and whooping cough; liquorice, used for sweets, cough mixtures, lozenges and medical remedies and brew-

ing stout; bogbean, whose leaves are used to stimulate the appetite; several species of peony, the roots and flowers of which are used as an antispasmodic and tonic; oship and primrose, for coughs and colds; and species of thyme and oregano, which provide essential oils.

Gardens thrive on dish water

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

PLANTS respond as well to washing-up water or to water from a washing machine as they do to tapwater, tests by *Gardening Which?* have shown.

A panel of tasters even preferred the taste of runner beans grown with dishwater, and the plants produced a bigger crop.

Five plants were grown in the tests, designed to make a comparison between tapwater and "grey" water from showers, washing-up, washing machines and dishwashers. Busy Lizzies, fuchsias, and nemesis were grown in pots, while runner beans and lettuces were grown in the ground.

Most of the plants flourished on grey water although lettuces grown on dishwasher or washing-machine water were less vigorous and tended to taste bitter.

Garden plants like phosphates which are contained in water that has been used to wash dishes or laundry. Surfactants from such water can damage plants if they come into direct contact with them but they break down quite quickly in soil.

Cat-lover guilty of cruelty to stray

By Robin Young

A CAT-lover who took pity on a stray, occasionally giving it milk, has been convicted of cruelty. Valerie Giles was also ordered to pay costs after magistrates agreed that she was responsible for the tomcat found by RSPCA officers with an eye infection.

Mrs Giles, a care worker, who has a healthy cat of her own, said afterwards: "All I had done was help a stray that popped round once in a while, and for that I have a criminal record. I was off work three weeks with stress because of this case but now it's over the only thing I am sure about is that I won't offer the hand of kindness to another cat. The RSPCA has certainly lost my support."

Mrs Giles, 43, from Smethwick, West Midlands, first saw the ginger cat more than 2½ years ago when it arrived on her doorstep looking cold and bedraggled. She offered it some milk and food, nicknamed him Ginge and for 18 months fed him occasionally,

although often he did not appear for weeks.

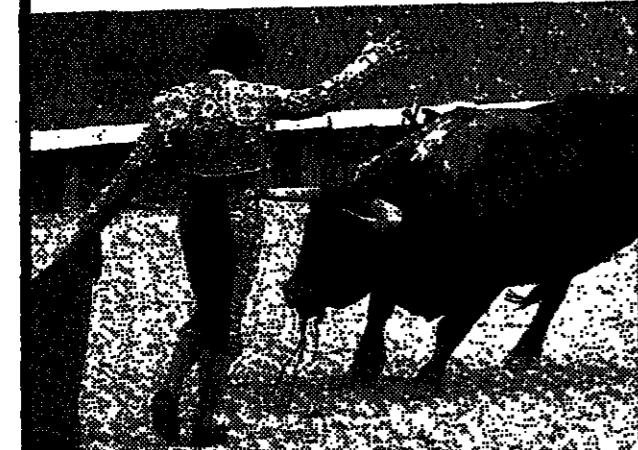
A year ago she noticed that he had an eye infection, which gradually got worse. Then she received a visit from the RSPCA that culminated with her being charged with causing unnecessary suffering to an animal.

Mrs Giles denied the charge but Warley magistrates found her guilty. She was given a conditional discharge for 12 months and ordered to pay £150 costs.



Ginge developed an eye infection

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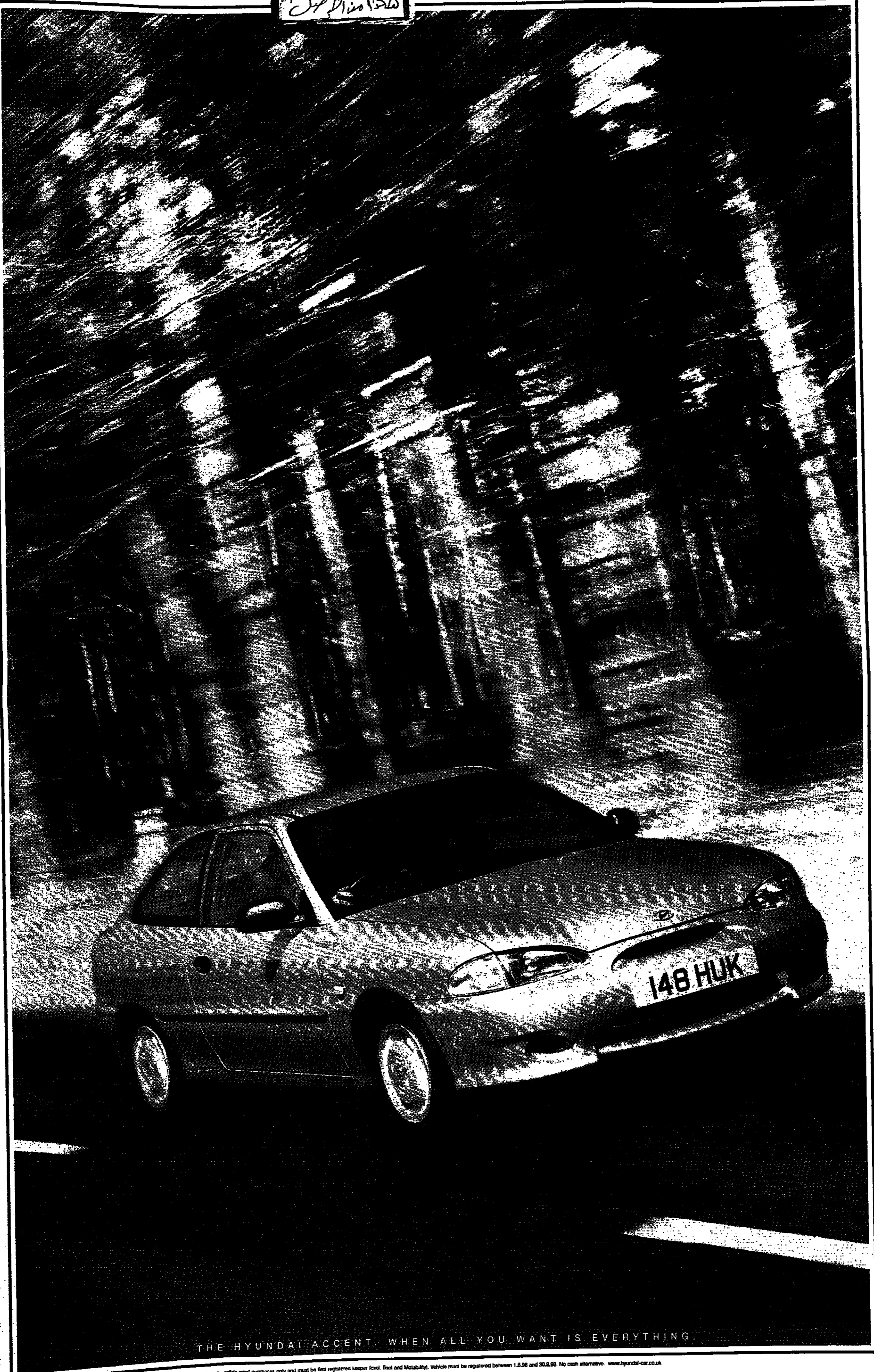
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Eco-warriors obstruct £20m business school

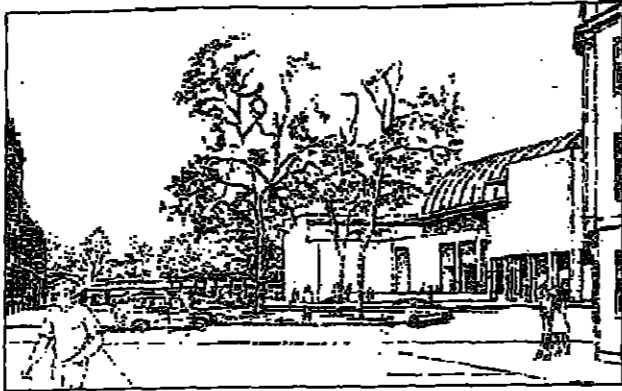
BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

ABOUT 100 eco-protesters are the latest obstacle to Oxford University's attempt to build a business school with £20 million from the Arab businessman Wafiq Said.

Fresh plans were published yesterday for a building on an undeveloped site next to Oxford railway station. The university said the school would provide an imposing new "gateway" to the city.

However, the plans would mean dismantling an adjacent 150-year-old disused station and moving it to a railway heritage centre in Buckinghamshire. Planners have approved the move as part of a road scheme for the area but protesters have been occupying the listed building for more than a month.

The scheme has been dogged by controversy since Mr Said announced his benefaction almost two years ago.



An artist's impression of Oxford's business school

Dons rejected the initial plans for a central site on university playing fields.

The latest scheme has council and university support but still requires the approval of English Heritage. The proposed building, designed by the architects Dixon Jones, who are behind the rebuilding of the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, will create two new public squares in a

previously undistinguished area of the city. A 300-seat lecture theatre and a series of courtyards and glazed walkways will be at the heart of the building. Professor John Kay, the university's Professor of Management, said the building would provide "probably the best facilities of any business school in the world."

The protesters are painting the front of the building ma-

ron and cream, the original colours of the London Midlands and Scottish station. Friends of the Earth and the Green Party are backing their campaign to halt the move. Roger Evans, a spokesman for the protesters, said: "There are about 100 people involved in the campaign, including many students. When we have completed the painting, we will be putting up a station sign."

The disused station, which opened in 1851, was modelled on Paxton's Crystal Palace. Since its closure in 1951, however, it has been used as a tyre depot and a car hire centre.

A university spokesman said care would be taken to ensure the conservation of the station on a more suitable site in Quainton, Buckinghamshire. The Oxford Transport Strategy, approved last month with its plan for a six-lane highway, had already taken the station's removal into account.

Design fails to do justice to site

BY MARCUS BINNEY

STUNG by earlier controversy, patron and architects appear to have set out to produce the most innocuous building possible for the new business school. Some may feel, like me, that the building is just not sufficiently interesting or impressive for its gateway site.

The new designs, like the earlier ones, are by Jeremy Dixon and Edward Jones, the architects responsible for the renova-

tion of the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. Drawings released yesterday show a building in an abstract style of simple geometric shapes dominated by a "roller" top.

The plans show a 300-seat lecture theatre with four smaller lecture halls, surrounded by informal areas where students can relax after hours.

Wafiq Said has offered to contribute to improvements to the station forecourt by planting mature trees. He said: "The

school is of real importance to Britain. Oxford and the university. I am delighted with the progress it is making in temporary premises."

The school, which plans to treble the number of MBA students to 200 by 2001, has applied for outline planning permission and will submit a full planning application at the end of the month.

If planning permission is received by the autumn the building could be in operation by 2000.



Acrobat Matthew Costain gives a preview of the show's style yesterday

Biggest top of all gives job opportunity to jump at

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

A TROUPE of 100 acrobats is to be recruited from the gymnasiums, rock faces, diving clubs and window ledges of Britain to perform six times a day in the Millennium Dome.

The search will begin late next month and offer recruits the chance to work towards the first British degree in circus studies, and in two years to display their prowess before an audience of 12 million.

The Dome, to be opened officially by the Prime Minister next week, will become the world's biggest big top when a 20-minute show is performed in the central arena for 12,000 visitors at a time.

Auditions will be held to choose performers aged 16 to 29 with strong torsos and a head for heights. Likely candidates include mountaineers, ocean divers and window cleaners.

The recruits will be trained in bungee jumping, trampolining and abseiling in an aircraft hangar. To emphasise the vastness of the venue, some performers will dive-bomb towards the crowd, stopping just above visitors' heads, while others will appear from the floor and fly to the 150ft high roof. The rock musician Peter Gabriel is composing the show on the theme of man, the environment and technology.

Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, yesterday publicly pleaded with Tony Blair to let him remain the Dome's political supremo in any Cabinet reshuffle, so that he can attend the opening ceremony at midnight on January 1, 2000. Having endured the brickbats, he said he wanted to be there to enjoy the success.

The acrobat hotline is 0800 665499.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rail strike likely to hit services

Train services are expected to be disrupted this weekend when rail maintenance workers begin a four-day strike today. The RMT union said that the strike would have a considerable impact on services, although train operators said there should be no immediate effect. The union is seeking a pay rise, moves towards a 35-hour week, more social hours, paid meal breaks and job security.

The RMT union is to hold a 24-hour strike on the London Underground from 6.30pm on Sunday, July 12, World Cup final day. Workers are angry at government plans partially to privatise the system. The union has agreed to hold talks with management before the strike.

MP denies fraud

Fiona Jones, Labour MP for Newark, and her agent Des Whicher denied making a false declaration about election expenses when they appeared before Nottingham magistrates. The case was adjourned for committal proceedings until August.

Princely sum

A watercolour of Hong Kong harbour by the Prince of Wales fetched \$7,500 (£4,700) at an auction in Manhattan to benefit the New York Academy of Art. Bidding opened at \$4,000 and quickly rose before it was sold to Peter Roth, 40, of Manhattan.

Sex case dropped

Arthur C. Clarke, the science fiction writer, will not be prosecuted after allegations in the *Sunday Mirror* that he sexually abused children, the Sri Lankan Government said. Lakshman Peiris, the Justice Minister, said there was insufficient evidence.

Damages raised

Damages awarded to Raymond Arrowsmith, a "workaholic" Essex car salesman who became a depressed recluse after a road crash, were increased from £30,500 to more than £1 million by the Court of Appeal after reviewing psychiatric evidence.

Mind the gap

One in four children will lose their front teeth by the age of 14, a study showed. The survey of 2,700 teenagers in Newham, East London, by the Health Education Authority, revealed that they had either broken them or had them knocked out.

Council estate

Dennis Clark, who died last year aged 66, has left his whole estate, worth about £10,000, to Portsmouth council because in 1996 a housing officer helped him to sort out a problem over rent on his council flat. Mr Clark used to run an electrical shop.

Call for helmets after postman dies

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

POSTMEN and women are likely to be issued with cycle helmets after a colleague died from head injuries when he hit an open car door during his early morning round.

Bramwell Ward, 49, fell from his Royal Mail cycle in March when David White opened the door of his stationary black Skoda outside his home at Poole, Dorset.

An inquest jury was told that the Royal Mail is now considering providing all its 29,000 cycling staff with £30 safety helmets. The mail's fleet of bicycles is believed to be the largest outside China.

Cynthia Yates, a Royal Mail representative, told the Poole inquest that postmen and women cycle 100,000 miles a year but only one other death in the past 23 years had been attributed to the lack of safety helmets.

After a verdict of accidental death was returned, Adrian Booth, a Royal Mail spokes-

man, said: "We are carrying out a major review of cycle safety and are seeking the opinions of 700 cycling staff. On the subject of helmets, we cannot force people to wear one if they do not want to."

Peter Donaldson, the principal health and safety officer for Poole Council, said: "If it comes down to it, we can issue a legal notice forcing the Royal Mail to issue cycle helmets and we could even prosecute individual postmen for not wearing them."

Mr White had told police: "I looked in my mirror and saw no one. Then I opened the door, and bang! I didn't see him." Mr Ward, a father of three and a postman for nearly ten years, did not regain consciousness and died the next day from a blood clot on the brain.

His widow, Gillian, said after the hearing: "What happened to my husband could happen again tomorrow."

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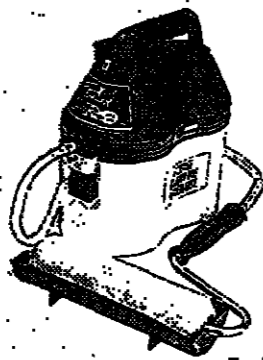
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Cancer survival rises but still falls behind US

THE number of cancer patients who survive more than five years is rising but successful treatment depends on where sufferers live, a leading specialist said yesterday.

Figures released yesterday show that the survival rate from the disease in Britain rose from 4 per cent to 30 per cent over the 1980s but that compares badly with the United States, where 40 per cent of patients now live longer than five years.

Karol Sikora, clinical consultant to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and cancer co-ordinator to the World Health Organisation, said: "We are falling behind. There is a lack of investment and too small a number of cancer specialists. There has been a lack of political will over the years to do something. Things have been partly restructured but we have a long way to go."

The best cancer care in the world was available in Britain but while some patients were getting first-class care, others had to put up with "delays due to the system which seem to be unavoidable". In some areas women with breast cancer had to wait up to three months for treatment. Although that might not affect the final outcome, it did affect the psychological state of the patients.

"Cancer treatment will get better as we go into the new millennium but we must en-

Some patients are getting the best care, while others are faced with delays. Ian Murray reports

sure that every cancer patient gets the best possible care."

The figures, produced jointly by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and the Office for National Statistics, compare what happened to the number of people diagnosed with the disease in 1981 with those who were diagnosed in 1989. The cases of 370,000 patients were reviewed, making it one of the largest statistical surveys ever made of the disease.

The five-year survival rate was seen as the gold standard to measure successful treatment. Professor Sikora said, because after that period a patient could be regarded as cured. The improvement was due to higher public awareness, better diagnosis by GPs, screening services and improved treatment techniques.

Improvements would continue and he expected the survival rates of patients diag-

nosed today would be better than those shown in the new figures. "Even without the new techniques that will undoubtedly be introduced I am confident that survival rates will get better," he said.

Although rates in some European countries and America were better, the figures were not collected in the same way, he added.

Dr Gillian Reeves, the senior researcher on the project, said: "About 200,000 people in England and Wales were diagnosed with cancer in 1989 and 60,000 of these survived for at least five years. This is about 10,000 more than would have survived according to the 1981 figures."

Survival rates for some cancers improved but not for others. Breast cancer showed a rise from 61 per cent to 68 per cent, colorectal cancer was up from 32 per cent to 39 per cent, 42 per cent of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma cases survived compared with 35 per cent, and leukaemia cases improved from 21 per cent to 27 per cent.

However, there was almost no improvement in survival rates for lung cancer, the most common form of the disease. Only 4 per cent of the 37,000 patients survived for five years and the high death rate among them skewed the overall figure. Other cancers where there has been little or no improvement are those in the pancreas, prostate, stomach, brain and oesophagus.

"It looks as if the cancers which are showing an increase in survival are those in which we know that earlier detection or better treatment can improve the prognosis," Dr Reeves said.

Scientists have made the earliest finding of cancer in a dinosaur that died in the Jurassic age 250 million years ago. The creature was found to have bone-weakening tumours in its blood vessels. Although they were benign their effect was to create large cavities in the bone.

The diagnosis, reported today in *The Lancet*, was made from a section of dinosaur's bone found in 1921 in Utah.

Older Britons lead race to achieve fitness

BY ROBIN YOUNG

RECORD numbers of people are taking part in sporting activities, and the fastest growth is among the over-65s, a report shows today.

A quarter of the population regularly take part in sport, an 11 per cent increase during the past 14 years, the report by Mintel, the market researchers, says. The increase is largely attributable to those aged over 60 enjoying their retirement in gyms, on golf courses, tennis courts, bowling greens or other sporting areas.

Almost one in five pensioners takes part in sport for at least an hour a week as they make healthy use of their extra leisure time, the report says. Mintel calculates that almost two million people have become members of the growing number of private health and fitness clubs. The report says the number of such clubs in Britain now exceeds 2,200, an 11 per cent increase since 1993. Their membership is up by 24 per cent over the same period, and the amount spent at health and fitness clubs has risen even faster, by 51 per cent to almost £1 billion a year.

Caroline Norman, Mintel's leisure analyst, said that there has been a surge of interest in sports and exercise in fitness clubs in recent years. "With the growth in facilities, and increasing health awareness among adults, individual sports such as aerobics, gym workouts and exercise classes have thrived."

"It is interesting that the participation profile of such activities has become older with the highest growth coming from those over 65. The most likely groups of people to classify themselves as fit are those aged between 20 and 24 and those over 65. It is the lack of free time, family and work commitments that accounts for the lower participation rates found among those in the family lifestyle group."



Nearly two million people have become members of private fitness clubs

HOW BRITONS ARE SHAPING UP

Percentage of population participating in sports (at least one hour a week)	1983	1986	1990	1993	1997	1983-97
	Individual sports	14	14	23	21	25
Watching live sport	18	19	13	17	15	-3
Team sports	7	7	13	11	12	+5

Mobile phone link to blood pressure rings true

BY IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

USING a mobile phone causes a potentially dangerous increase in blood pressure, researchers have found. It is not the stress of poor reception but the electromagnetic fields emitted by the mobile when a call is received.

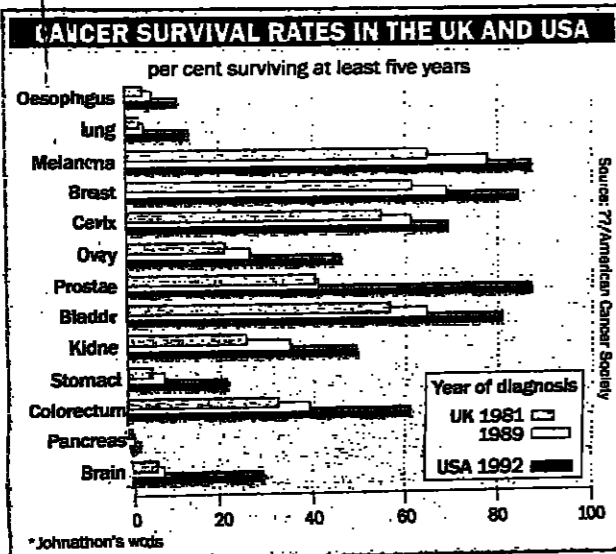
Research was carried out on ten volunteers, three women and seven men aged 26 to 36. They had a mobile phone attached to the right side of their head in the position where they would normally hold the instrument.

The volunteers were attached to a device that measured their blood pressure continuously. Some were then sent a soundless signal over the phone while the others received no signal at all. After 35 minutes the process was reversed with the volunteers who had been receiving the soundless signal sent nothing while those who had not been receiving a signal were sent one.

The tests were repeated over five days with the volunteers both standing up and lying down during sessions. At no point did they know whether they were receiving a signal since they had been told that the changes would be made randomly. In fact they were made alternately to avoid any chance that the radio signals might have effects that lasted beyond each session.

The researchers from the University Neurology Clinic at Freiburg in Germany found that the volunteers' blood pressure rose by at least 5 per cent among those who were receiving the radio signal, whether they were lying down or standing up.

Writing in *The Lancet* today, the researchers say that the increase was probably caused by a constriction of the arteries caused by the radio-frequency electromagnetic field. The average increase in blood pressure was 5 to 10mm above the normal level of the volunteers. A rise of that amount could have adverse effects on people with high blood pressure, the report says.



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- training local mobile teams to create and maintain new water sources

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• working closely with other charities active in the region to assist in the delivery of food aid and essential relief items.

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Turn over to see one of the most shocking things ever put on TV.

The jobs that nobody wants

- Jobcentres have 297,000 vacancies nationwide
- This is the highest figure for almost a year
- 1,364,300 unemployed are looking for work

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE number of job vacancies in Britain has soared to 297,000, the highest figure for almost a year, despite this week's increase in unemployment. The statistics confirm the Treasury's worst fears: there are many thousands of jobs that nobody wants.

There are now 1,364,300 unemployed people looking for work. But the Treasury is concerned that even with the advent of the minimum wage there will still be no takers for the unskilled and unglamorous posts.

Employment experts estimate the true number of available jobs in the economy is three times the official jobcentre figure, with about 600,000 vacancies advertised through commercial agencies and local newspapers.

The South coast is one of the worst affected areas in Britain. Yesterday it emerged that a Poole-based factory, Kerry Foods, was preparing to travel to France, Spain and Portugal

next week to try to attract takers for 90 unskilled packing jobs. The pay, at about £3.75 an hour, is above the minimum wage. There are 1,769 people registered as unemployed in the town.

Advertisements in Newcastle and Liverpool and across the North West and Merseyside, where there are 40,000 vacancies, also produced no takers. A spokesman for Kerry Foods, specialists in sausages and pork pies, said: "If we cannot find people locally then we have to look further afield, in the United Kingdom or abroad."

In Bournemouth yesterday the *Daily Echo* local newspaper advertised 626 vacancies. Last month the jobcentre ran out of board space when the vacancies went above 1,600. The number of unemployed in the area is 3,839.

A shipping company in Portland is advertising 300 vacancies across a 50-mile radius because it has been unable to find any applicants. Hiring staff in the area has become so difficult that local

recruitment companies are paying temps higher rates of pay because they cannot find permanent staff.

Carolyn Ash, who runs recruitment agencies on the south coast, said: "I have never known it so difficult to attract unskilled workers. Factories are even staging open evenings to try to get staff."

Bharpi Patel, director of the Low Pay Unit, said that the reason many jobs were not filled was because of the benefit trap. "It is an historic problem. There is a serious risk crucial benefits will be lost if people take up low paid work. Unless the Government does enough to cover some of these concerns about low payments many unemployed people will make the calculation: am I better or worse off at work or on benefit?"

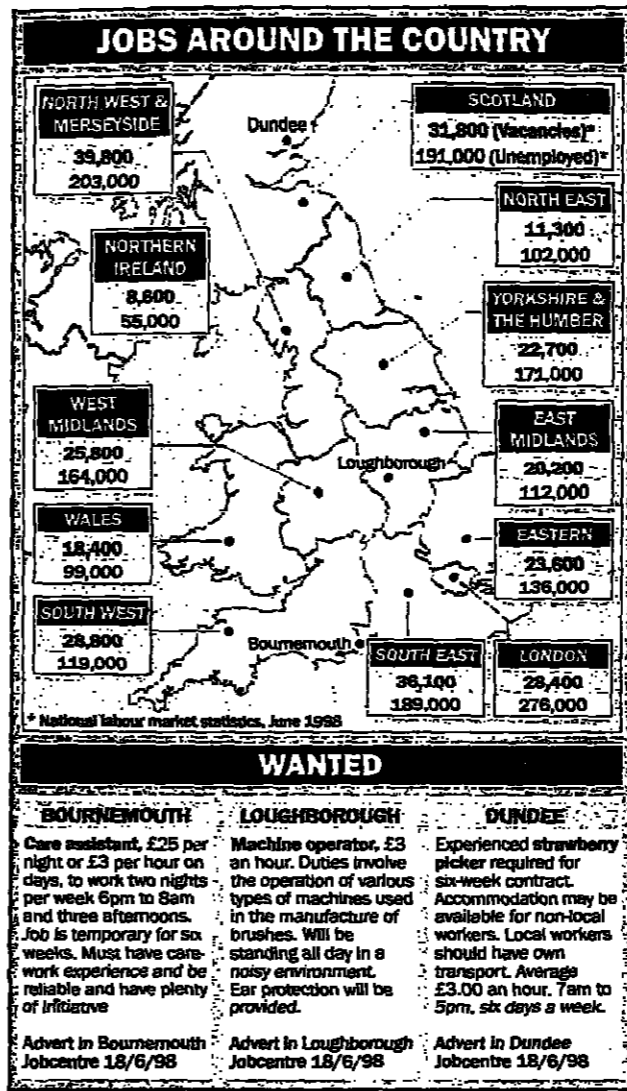
London is another big problem. With one of the highest unemployment totals of 276,000, it had unfilled 30,000 vacancies last month. Many were in the catering and hotel industry. The British Hospitality Association, which rep-

resents the industry, reported 76,000 vacancies in jobcentres last month but estimates the true figure could be double.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, is so concerned about the level of unfilled posts, many of which are eventually taken by overseas students and visitors, that he is planning talks with the leaders of the major hotel chains.

A Treasury source said: "Many of these jobs could be done by British people. But they are deterred by low pay and the idea that hotel work is just a temporary summer vacation. He wants to persuade the big hotel groups to do more proper training to develop proper career structures to make the industry more attractive to jobseekers."

Tim Congdon, the economist who was one of the "wise men" advising the previous Chancellor, did not think that the minimum wage would make the unattractive jobs attractive. "It does not work like that. Companies will simply not employ anyone unless they make a profit out of it."



New Labour conflict is to blame for messy deal

THE national minimum wage provides the clearest example so far of the internal tensions and contradictions of new Labour. The measure is inherently old Labour in conception, though has been produced through a new Labour filter. The result is less Third Way than messy compromise — a classic Blairite attempt to reconcile redistribution with economic efficiency.

The idea is old Labour in that it reflects a largely static view of the labour market, the belief that the earnings of low-paid workers can be increased without damaging either employment or inflation. Little account is taken of the impact upon those seeking jobs or at the margin of the labour force, but then trade unions have traditionally been mainly concerned with defending the interests of existing workers, not outsiders.

Gordon Brown and his advisers have recognised that labour markets are fluid and dynamic. They have wanted the minimum wage to be set at a level that does not threaten jobs or add significantly to industry's costs. For 10 Downing Street, what matters is that it should be acceptable to big business. In the eyes of the Blairites, the reaction of Adair Turner of the CBI matters far more than that of John Edmonds of the GMB.

The Chancellor's priority is his cherished Welfare to Work programme. After all, the main aim of working families tax credit, reform of national insurance contributions and the whole New Deal is help the young and long-term unemployed into work, and to encourage employers to take on more staff. The last thing needed is a measure that adds to pay costs and discourages new hiring.

That applies particularly to young and inexperienced workers. Hence Mr Brown's desire to phase the introduction of the minimum wage for 18 to 21-year-olds. In practice, his dispute with Margaret Beckett was over a small sum for a relatively few workers, which she could, and did, present as a transitional issue which had to be handled with "due caution" at a "critical point in the economic cycle". So it was in spite of Mrs Beckett's allies to stir up the issue.

The Government argued yesterday that the minimum wage would help "some two million workers escape from poverty pay without adverse effects on jobs or inflation". Both propositions cannot be true, though the 285-page report of the Low Pay Commission is dedicated to showing that the circle can be squared.

In effect, a minimum wage transfers the cost of supporting the incomes of the low-paid from the Government (reducing the cost of tax credits and in-work benefits) to employer/increasing their wage bill. But the impact is not equal. It will be greatest in small firms and in low-paying, labour-intensive sectors such as security, cleaning, hotels, bars and restaurants where pay is a higher proportion of total costs. Workers in these industries will be its victims as well as its beneficiaries. Those in work may be paid more, but fewer may have jobs. Old Labour claims this conflict does not exist. New Labour does not publicly acknowledge it, but tries to minimise the effects.

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

PETER RIDDELL

'Prestige appointments' on offer for poverty pay

BY TIM JONES

FEW people are interested in applying for jobs in Loughborough unless the hourly rate on offer is at least £3.50 an hour.

Although employers use uplifting adjectives to advertise in glowing terms the positions they require to be filled, the low-paid posts can remain empty for weeks or even months. At the jobcentre in the quietly prosperous East Midlands town, the position of a security guard who will be required to work a 12-hour shift walking around the building is described as a "prestige appointment".

Another unskilled security post offers £3.18 an hour for the same shift while a mach-

ine operator is expected to do a nine-hour shift for £3.

People in the town, which suffers from a lack of skilled labour, appear unwilling to apply in numbers for jobs unless the pay is £4 an hour.

Part of the reason for expectations of wages above the new national minimum is the university. Loughborough's major employer, which attracts cleaners by offering a generous £4.14 an hour. The lowest paid jobs are found in catering and the retail trades, where employers seek to take advantage of unqualified labour.

Lynne Osborne, deputy manager at the jobcentre,

said: "One company was trying to recruit waiters for £3 but had no success. This seems to be the mark at which very few are interested."

Some people in the town cannot even hope to earn £3 an hour. These are the scores of immigrants who work in textile sweat shops for as little as £2 an hour. They are trapped and disadvantaged because of their inability to speak English. A government-financed project is trying to break through a barrier of suspicion and fear to help them to claim a reasonable living wage. Martin Traynor, president of the local chamber of commerce, said: "Slowly, we are making progress but it is a tough nut to crack."

Unsocial hours rule out many willing workers

BY GILLIAN HARRIS
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE forest of white cards pinned to noticeboards at Wellgate Jobcentre in Dundee offer a host of part-time opportunities for unskilled workers. There are 6,577 people out of work in the city but employers appear to have a problem filling vacancies for cleaners, care assistants, laundry workers, security officers and fruit pickers.

Many of the jobs advertised pay less than the minimum wage. One advert for part-time bar staff calls for smart presentable people with own transport to work in a busy pub for £3.09 at 18 years, £3.30 at 21 years. For Diane McCallum, 24, visiting the

jobcentre with her 18-month-old son, Darren, it appears promising until she learns that it involves working weekends. "I need a Monday to Friday job," she said. "My older boy is at school during the week and Darren can go to his granny's, but I have to be home at weekends."

Most of the jobs on offer involve irregular working hours. A vacancy for a video store sales assistant asks for a person who can work extra hours at short notice and at weekends between 10am and 10pm. The pay is £3 an hour.

Some of the vacancies have been on display for several weeks, but there are no takers.

Ken McCartney, 42, a former factory worker who has been unemployed for nine months, considers a position as a part-time car park attendant which pays £3 an hour. "Applicant with an ex-military or security background would be preferable. Must have a ten years checkable background and smart appearance," says the advert. "That rules me out," Mr McCartney said ruefully.

The major employers in the city, including Michelin Tyres, Ninewells Hospital and a BT Call Centre, have no problems finding staff but they pay above-average wages and many posts require specialised skills. There used to be jute mills, which provided thousands of jobs, but only one remains open.

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Hasty Acropolis dig 'destroys history'

Athens is accused of barbaric behaviour, writes John Carr

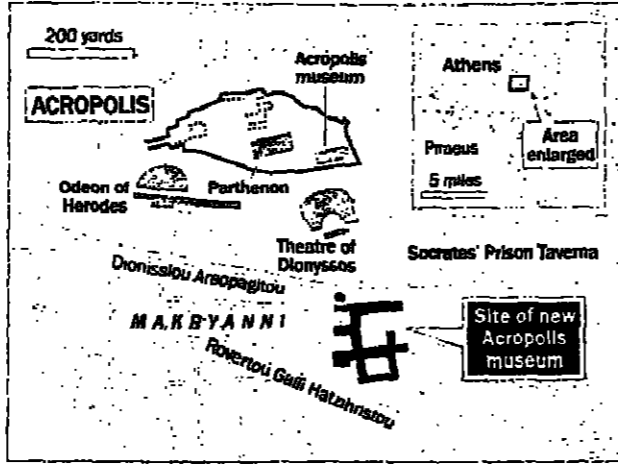
TRACES of buildings dating back to Classical Athens are being dug up, with little or no attempt at documentation or classification, in the Greek Government's haste to build a new Acropolis museum to house the Elgin Marbles and strengthen the country's case for their return, according to archaeologists.

Workers digging the foundations for the museum less than 100 yards from the Acropolis rock, in the old quarter of Makryanni, and specialists charged with classifying whatever is unearthed in the process, claim they are being told to cut corners so that the museum

can be completed by 2002. Makryanni, one of the oldest quarters of one of Europe's oldest cities, has been almost continuously inhabited since Neolithic times.

"The whole thing is being done with indecent haste," said a member of the Friends of the Acropolis Committee, a group of private citizens echoing archaeologists' concerns. "Whole layers of history are being cast aside to dig the foundations. This harms the process of scientific inquiry and gathering of knowledge."

The Ministry of Culture, which oversees archaeology, denies the allegations. "Whatever turns up is very carefully



and systematically classified," a ministry spokesman said. But the site on the south side of the Acropolis, flanked by decaying, genteel apartment blocks, is patrolled by guards.

Visitors who look as if they might be foreign journalists are kept away by stony-faced functionaries sipping coffee in the shade of one of the few trees left by the digging, which

includes work on an underground station. The £70 million museum will be out of sight of the Acropolis.

The site can be seen from the upper rear window of a bar called Socrates' Prison. Layers of ancient masonry stick out of the topsoil, ranging from the large granite blocks of Classical and pre-Classical buildings to the reddish brick of the Roman and Byzantine periods. There appears to be no systematic storage of the ruins.

The Greek Government's haste to get the museum built is based on the premise that it would eliminate the British Museum's main objection in handing the Elgin Marbles back to Greece: that Greece has nowhere to house them.

Last week Evangelos Venizelos, the Greek Minister for

Culture, who has campaigned aggressively to get the marbles back, used reports of damaging mistakes allegedly made by British Museum restorers 60 years ago to renew the attack. This week the marbles competed with football hooliganism in anti-British stories in the Greek press.

The original Greek claim, made in 1982 by the late actress and politician Melina Mercouri, was that the Elgin Marbles were part of a unified set of statues on the Acropolis, and that without them the whole Athenian monument was incomplete. But critics have since pointed out that the Greeks' own record in looking after their marbles has been less than spotless.

For example, parts of a frieze by Athens's greatest sculptor, Phidias, removed

five years ago by a restoration team working to strengthen the Parthenon, are now locked in a storeroom. Acid rain formed by the notorious Athens smog has been eating away at the features of every outdoor statue and column, causing irreparable damage in four decades that would have taken four centuries to occur naturally, experts say.

In 1900 restorers tried to strengthen shaky marble blocks on the Acropolis temples with iron spikes. But those spikes have since rusted, expanding the marble and cracking many of the Parthenon's 12,000 blocks. A huge restoration effort, replacing the iron with titanium, has been under way for 15 years. One consequence is that the Parthenon is permanently roped off to visitors.

WORLD SUMMARY

Cook in hostage appeal

London: Robin Cook appealed to Moscow to pool its efforts with Britain to win the release of hostages in Chechnya (Michael Binyon writes). The Foreign Secretary underlined concerns about two Britons seized a year ago when he met Sergei Stepashin, Russian Interior Minister, yesterday. Camilla Carr and Jon James were kidnapped in Grozny. Valentin Vlasov, a Russian presidential envoy, was also seized.

Fascist returns

Dinko Sakic, 76, the Croatian fascist who commanded a Second World War concentration camp known as the "Balkan Auschwitz", arrived in Zagreb to face trial after being extradited from Argentina (Gabriella Gammeli writes).

OJ auction

Washington: The Los Angeles mansion formerly owned by O. J. Simpson may be dismantled and auctioned brick by brick for charity (Tom Rhodes writes). The couple who bought it for £2.4 million last year have decided it is not their taste.

Gold defence

Geneva: The Swiss National bank said its purchase of Nazi gold preserved stability in the neutral country in the Second World War. But the bank said its wartime governors had not shown enough sensitivity about the matter. (Reuters)

Niece in red

Olga Ulyanova, 75, Lenin's niece and the last surviving close relative of the revolutionary leader, has appealed to factory workers in the southern town of Georgievsk for £60,000 to save her from eviction from her flat (Michael Binyon writes).

Serb mothers demand pullout from Kosovo

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

HUNDREDS of mothers and sisters of Yugoslav Army soldiers serving in Kosovo demonstrated outside army headquarters in Belgrade yesterday, demanding that their sons and brothers be withdrawn to barracks in central Serbia.

It was the first sign of public disenchantment with the bloodshed in the south. But an anti-war protest planned for the same time failed to materialise and the screaming women were easily contained by a police cordon.

The low turnout suggested nationalistic fervour is keeping Serb public opinion firmly behind the battle to defeat the

Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). The women, mostly from the city of Valjevo, accused the army of duping their sons into travelling to the front. They claimed that the barracks at Valjevo had been roused by an alarm at midnight, after which the recruits had been told they were being transferred to the central city of Nis. They were herded into buses, the parents alleged, only to find themselves in Kosovo hours later.

Since then many of the mothers had heard nothing of their children's whereabouts. Major-General Gradimir Zivanovic, who faced the angry women, assured two

mothers that he would personally check where their sons were stationed, and would telephone them with the news this morning.

Most Yugoslav Army soldiers are conscripts, undergoing a mandatory one year of national service. The army does not give figures on how many of them it has in Kosovo, and General Zivanovic did little to calm the mothers by announcing "with pride in his heart" that a soldier had died on the border with Albania.

"I don't need Kosovo," screamed one young woman. "All I want is my brother and his life."



The mother of a Serb soldier serving in Kosovo confronts police during a women's protest in Belgrade yesterday

Former prison camp commander denies 'reign of terror'

FROM MARK FULLER IN AMSTERDAM



Krnjelac accused of murder and torture

THE Bosnian Serb commander of one of the largest prison camps in the former Yugoslavia pleaded not guilty yesterday to 18 counts of torture, murder and enslavement. Twenty-nine boys and men were killed during Milorad Krnjelac's alleged reign of terror at the camp in southeast Bosnia in 1992 and 1993. Arraigned before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former

Yugoslavia, days after being snatched by Nato-led peacekeepers in Foca, southeast Bosnia, Mr Krnjelac, 57, answered curtly, "I plead not guilty" as each of the 18 counts of was put to him.

The former teacher and captain in the Yugoslav national army, appeared relaxed during the brief hearing in The Hague. He waived his right to a public reading of the ten-page indictment.

The document stated that Mr Krnjelac "persecuted Muslim and

non-Serb males by subjecting them to prolonged imprisonment, repeated torture and beatings, countless killings, prolonged and frequent forced labour and inhumane conditions". It claims that some detainees who were still alive after the beatings were shot or died of their injuries in solitary confinement.

Conditions at the overcrowded camp were brutal and the inmates, mainly civilian Muslim boys and men aged between 16 to 80, were subjected to "constant physical and

psychological assault", the prosecution said.

Housed in a four-storey building with the mentally handicapped, physically disabled and seriously ill, the prisoners were forced to do hard labour while being fed starvation rations. At its peak, 760 detainees lived in a state of constant fear, the prosecution said.

He was charged under a sealed indictment in June last year for atrocities committed during his command of the Foca Kazneno-Popravni

Dom camp in 1992 and 1993. He faces seven counts of crimes against humanity, six counts of grave breaches of the Geneva Convention and five counts of violations of the laws or customs of war. The charges also cover crimes allegedly committed by his subordinates.

Mr Krnjelac faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment if convicted. A trial date was not set yesterday, but judges said the trial was not expected to begin before mid-September.

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Bosnia peacemaker picked as UN envoy

THE maverick negotiator of Bosnia's peace deal and seasoned former diplomat, Richard Holbrooke, returned to the Clinton Administration yesterday as Ambassador to the United Nations.

In a move certain to shake up the Washington foreign policy establishment and ruffle feathers at the State Department, Mr Holbrooke will replace Bill Richardson, who is moving to become Energy Secretary.

President Clinton, announcing the shuffle, said Mr Holbrooke, 57, would bring broad experience to the job. "He will help us to shape a UN that is leaner, more efficient, better equipped, and one that fulfils the best ideals of its founders and meets the challenges of the 21st century," the President said.

In spite of public claims to the contrary, Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, opposed the appointment. Ms Albright, who views herself as the pre-eminent manager of American foreign policy, had blocked Mr Holbrooke's initial hopes of



The President likes the bullying style of Richard Holbrooke, left, writes Tom Rhodes

the New York post at the start of Mr Clinton's second term.

Mr Clinton has remained impressed by Mr Holbrooke's recognised bullying tactics in dealing with ethnic divisions in the Balkans, for which he was nominated for the Nobel peace prize. Since his success in brokering a peace accord for Bosnia-Herzegovina at Dayton in 1995, the President has leaned on Mr Holbrooke as an outside negotiator, both in the former Yugoslavia and in Cyprus.

A former US Ambassador to Bonn, former Assistant Secretary and presidential envoy

under Mr Clinton, Mr Holbrooke officially left the Administration two years ago to pursue a career in investment banking as vice-chairman of Credit Suisse First Boston. But he has rarely been more than a telephone call away from the Oval Office, returning to the Balkans last month to secure a subsequently broken agreement from President Milosevic to temper his crackdown in Kosovo.

Mr Holbrooke is perhaps even closer to Al Gore, the Vice-President, whom he helped with a failed presidential bid in 1988. Should Mr

Gore be elected in 2000, many believe Mr Holbrooke would succeed Ms Albright as Secretary of State.

Although he is known for achieving results, Mr Holbrooke is unpopular among many in Washington who resent his arrogance and sheer lust for power. As one senior official put it yesterday: "He is like a black hole, attracting all the spotlight and taking it away from others."

The return yesterday from banking to international affairs in fact mirrored his early record when, having made his name as a young White House aide in Vietnam, he left the State Department to edit *Foreign Policy*, only to be recalled by President Carter as Assistant Secretary of State for the Far East at the age of 35.

His career started somewhat inauspiciously when he entered the foreign service after being turned down for a job on *The New York Times* — he has maintained an interest in the media and remains a popular figure among both domestic and international journalists.



A helicopter dumps a giant bucket of water on brush fires raging across northern Florida. The fires have caused main roads to close and families to flee (David Adams writes). More than

Fires scorch Sunshine State

20 wildfires raged in the north of the state yesterday as another day of temperatures in the high 90s (37C)

and strong breezes helped embers to flare up. In the last three weeks 94 fires have scorched nearly 43,000

acres. One fire forced the evacuation of 1,100 people on Wednesday as the flames approached the town of Wadwa. The Sunshine State has not known such June heat in almost 50 years.

MARKS & SPENCER STRAWBERRIES

The Cream of the Crop.



Widow unveils her gun control Bill

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A WIDOW whose husband died in a hail of gunfire on a commuter train five years ago has stepped up her long-running campaign for gun control in the United States.

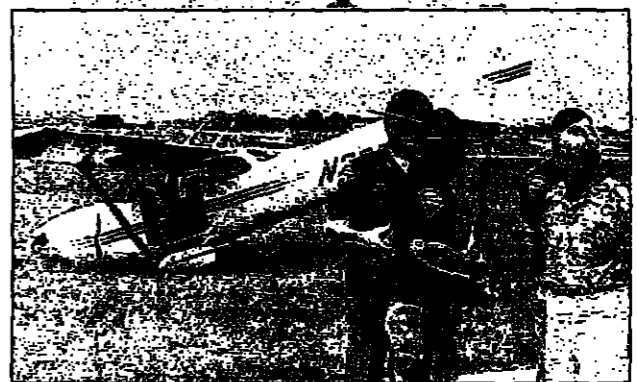
Carolyn McCarthy, a New York congresswoman, this week introduced legislation in the House of Representatives that would strengthen laws forbidding children access to handguns and impose criminal penalties on adults who fail to lock up their weapons.

In the wake of numerous school shootings throughout the country, the Children's Gun Violence Prevention Act would also force manufacturers to produce safer, child-proof weapons. Mrs McCarthy has achieved near

legendary status among gun control advocates after her husband, Dennis, was among six people killed during a rampage by a lone gunman, Colin Ferguson, on the Long Island commuter train in 1993.

Her son, Kevin, was shot in the head and remains paralysed. Her life since the incident, made into a film, has been divided between nursing her son and trying to change the gun culture.

Registered as a Republican, she won office as a Democrat in 1996 for the single purpose of persuading Capitol Hill to change its allegiance to the National Rifle Association, the country's most powerful gun lobby, run by the actor Charlton Heston.



Mr Kupferschmid with Indiana state police troopers

Passenger lands plane after pilot friend dies

Mount Comfort, Indiana: An 81-year-old man with no flying experience had to land a single-engine Cessna plane after his friend died at the controls.

Robert Kupferschmid and Wesley Sickle, 52, were returning to the Indianapolis Metropolitan Airport on Wednesday afternoon when Mr Sickle died. "The plane started nosing to the ground," Mr Kupferschmid said. "I managed to pull the yoke up. I got on the radio and asked for help."

Mike Bowen, a pilot of 15 years, responded. He was flying his Cherokee Piper aircraft about 20 miles away, carrying out surveys of gas lines. Mr Bowen found the closest place to land was Mount Comfort Airport, east

of Indianapolis. Listening to a stream of instructions, Mr Kupferschmid monitored the altimeter of the Cessna, keeping the plane at about 2,000ft. "He was concerned, but he never sounded frantic," Mr Bowen said.

Emergency crews were called to the airport. From his cockpit and flying close behind the Cessna, Mr Bowen gave instructions on climbing, steering and descending. Air traffic controllers also "did a wonderful job", Mr Kupferschmid said.

On landing, the plane bounced a few times before the tail struck the ground. It then swerved into grassland. Mr Bowen said Mr Kupferschmid's ability to keep cool during the 20-minute ordeal had saved him.

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Turkey sends warplanes to Cyprus

Britain is asked to intervene as tension rises, Andrew Finkel and Michael Binyon write

TURKEY has appealed to Britain, as a guarantor of Cypriot independence, to intervene to defuse rising military tension over the island.

Mesut Yilmaz, the Turkish Prime Minister, said that he would call on Britain to fulfil the responsibility taken on at the time of Cypriot independence in 1960, as Turkey sent F16 fighter aircraft to the island.

Ankara has not yet formally approached Britain over Cyprus, but the Foreign Office said yesterday that it was in touch with all sides to try to ease tension and promote an intercommunal settlement.

War is not what Turkey desires — it depends on the Greek Cypriots

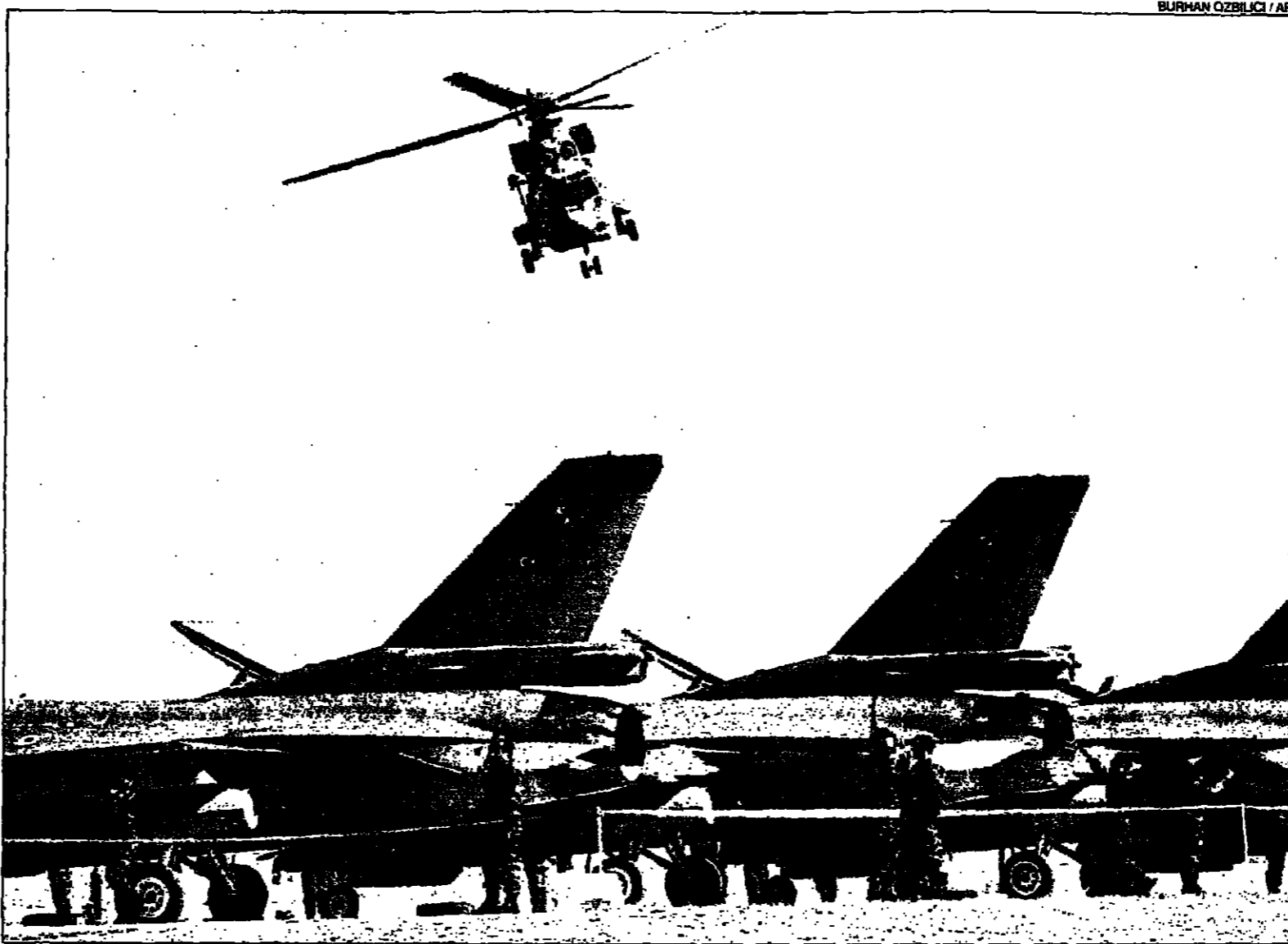
Britain, Greece and Turkey were all appointed as guarantor powers when the Constitution for an independent Cyprus was drawn up.

Turkey cited this provision to justify its military intervention in 1974, after a short-lived coup against President Makarios and the threat by the Greek Cypriot coup leader to seek union with Greece.

There are still 35,000 Turkish troops on Cyprus, as well as a large United Nations force, including Britons, parolling the "green line" separating the two communities.

The Turks admitted yesterday that the planes sent to Gecitkale airbase in the self-declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus carried a political rather than military payload.

Turkish jets normally stationed on the mainland in Incirlik are in any case only a few minutes' sortie from Nicosia. Three planes left later.



Turkish Air Force F16s at Gecitkale airbase near Famagusta during an alert last winter. Ankara yesterday dispatched six more fighters

stepped up its attempts to mediate after the decision last month by Richard Holbrooke, the American special envoy, to break off his mission to kick-start intercommunal talks.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry last night discounted reports that parts of the S300 missiles have reached the island. This follows an incident, again this week, in which Turkish customs seized a ship travelling through the Dardanelles carrying what appeared to be missile launch ramps hidden among a consignment of tractors.

Under international agreement, Turkey has no right to interfere with navigation through the Straits and the Maltese-registered vessel was subsequently released.

In recent months Turkey has visibly strengthened its defence commitment to northern Cyprus, including the staging of joint manoeuvres. It has promised to integrate its client state in the north even more closely to the mainland should the Republic of Cyprus

win accession to the European Union. Britain sees the quarrel between Turkey and the European Union as one of the big difficulties still facing the EU. At the Cardiff summit it attempted to defuse Turkey's anger over its treatment at the Luxembourg summit by using language to make clear that

Island's two sides hold to collision course

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE roar of the Turkish F16s over Nicosia was heard by Greek Cypriots, who promptly switched on their radios for more news. But no one was surprised. Turkey had said that it would react to the "provocative" first Greek flights to the new fighter airbase in the resort of Paphos on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, urged all parties involved in the military brinkmanship to "abstain from any action that could further exacerbate tension". But each side, convinced right is on its side, has ignored several such appeals in recent months.

Alarm bells have been ringing in Western capitals ahead of the planned deployment later this year of Russian-made anti-aircraft missiles by the Greek Cypriots. Turkey has threatened military action if they arrive.

The Greek Cypriots fear that international news reports about the missiles will damage their tourism industry, but still refuse to cancel the multimillion-pound deal. President Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, has said that that can happen only if Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, can be persuaded to return to intercommunal talks and progress is made towards reunification. Mr Denktaş first wants international recognition for his breakaway state, and for the European Union to cancel membership talks with Cyprus.

Clinton seeks to rebuild ties with Tehran

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE United States has sent a strong signal of its desire to restore relations with Iran, praising the new leadership in Tehran and urging both Governments to abandon two decades of estrangement.

President Clinton said yesterday that Iran had shown positive signs of change. "What we want is a genuine reconciliation with Iran, based on mutuality and reciprocity and a sense that the Iranians are prepared to move away from support of terrorism and distribution of dangerous weapons, and opposition to the Middle East peace process," Mr Clinton said.

His comments followed a speech by Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, who called on the Islamic Government to join America in drawing up a route leading to normal diplomatic ties. Speaking to the Asia Society in New York, Ms Albright praised President Khatami as a man who deserved respect as the choice of the Iranian people. She noted that the moderate cleric elected with the strong support of women, had denounced terrorism and condemned the killings of civilians in Israel in January. And she acknowledged Iran's efforts in the war against drugs, its shelter of two million refugees and its efforts to mediate peace in Afghanistan.

Almost 20 years after the Iranian Revolution and seizure of 52 US hostages in 1979,

Ms Albright said it would be "irresponsible" not to bridge the gap between the two nations. Her comments came as the United States team prepares to meet Iran in the World Cup on Sunday, a match which officials hope will produce the sort of rapprochement effected by ping-pong diplomacy in China.

Only after heaping praise on the Tehran regime did Ms Albright offer a word of caution. She said Iran still supported terrorist groups, violated human rights and was trying to develop long-range missiles and acquire nuclear weapons.

US officials said yesterday that the speech was designed to bolster Mr Khatami, who still faces substantial opposition from the conservative old guard, including Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader. The talk coincided with the first address in Washington by Iran's new Ambassador to the United Nations, Hadi Nejad-Hosseini, who accused the Administration of continuing a "hostile" policy towards Tehran and demanded that America abandon its Cold War mentality. He had needed permission to travel outside New York. There was more continuity than change in US policy, he said, "so we don't think that this situation, the Government-to-Government negotiation, is possible and useful. It's not."

US move may boost moderates in Iran

BY MICHAEL THEODOULOU

IRAN yesterday praised the "positive tone" of the American offer. But it was waiting for "concrete action". Hossein-Nejad Hosseini, Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations, told state television, which also broadcast the US overture.

The cautious official response was understandable, given the bitter power struggle between the moderate and hardline wings of the Iranian Government. It was partly from fear of weakening the moderate President Khatami that Washington had previously avoided a direct approach.

Now America appears to have gambled that it can strengthen him by offering an olive branch. That was how it was seen by Iranian diplomats whose response was far more enthusiastic than Tehran's first public reaction. "It will help to dispel criticism by hardliners that America ignored Khatami's call for better relations [made last January]," one envoy said.

Improved relations could also boost Mr Khatami by bringing much-needed foreign investment when Iran's ailing economy is seen as being as serious a challenge to his Government as that posed by hardliners. A welcome early gesture from Washington would be the return of Iranian assets frozen when the Shah was overthrown. Iranian officials said.

How Hoover snubbed the King

BY HELEN RUMBLOW

ELVIS PRESLEY was refused an audience with J. Edgar Hoover, ten days after his famous handshake with President Richard Nixon, because the FBI director found his "long hair" and "exotic dress" distasteful.

Hoover's disdain for the "King" is revealed in memos and letters made public on the FBI website under the Freedom of Information Act. The National Archives' most frequently requested photograph is of Presley meeting Nixon to discuss how to fight drugs.

The memos reveal a picture of a highly conservative Presley, eager to curry favour with the FBI by offering to inform on drugs contacts. "He is of the opinion that the Beatles laid the groundwork for many of the problems we are having with



Presley and President Nixon at the White House

young people by their filthy unkempt appearance and suggestive music," a memo reads.

However, another memo, called from an FBI aide, says M. A. Jones speaks approvingly of Presley's "gyra-

tions while performing" and advises Hoover to refuse his request for a meeting. "He is certainly not the type of individual whom the director would wish to meet."

Hoover wrote at the bottom of the page: "I concur."

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JUNE 19 1998
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Apartheid yields its strangest secrets

FOR the last week South Africans have been regaled with a succession of shocking revelations about the country's chemical and bacteriological weapons programme under the apartheid regime. Many have come as a further blow to the credibility of the National Party, most of whose supporters believed to the end in the Calvinist probity of the party's leaders.

Even those Afrikaners who now accept that apartheid was an immoral mistake have tended to believe that the worst deeds were the acts of individual policemen and that all these crimes had been thoroughly aired. But each time such a conclusion is near the Truth and Reconciliation Commission discloses another chamber of horrors, with the clear suggestion that there are more revelations to come.

In the last week the commission has heard of plans to poison Nelson Mandela gradually in jail so that he emerged a mental defective; of attempts to develop drugs which would cut black fertility and virility;

South Africa's most senior figures are being tainted by details of germ war plans, R.W. Johnson writes

of attempts to develop poisons which would be targeted to kill "pigmented people only"; of tonnes of cocaine and Mandrax to be released into the air over townships; of the development of large quantities of anthrax, the AIDS virus and cholera; and of poisoned needles, pens, shirts, walking sticks, bicycle pumps and screwdrivers - one of the latter having been sent for use

by a South African agent in Ascot. Several themes have emerged in the evidence. One is that little is said of the practical use of such weapons. The commission has been told of ANC guerrillas killed with poisoned drinks and of exploding washing powder packets in guerrilla camps, of a "leftist" national serviceman killed by thallium poisoning and a

few other isolated cases. Many of the schemes seem to have belonged to the realms of science fiction and it is no surprise that many were probably never used. In other cases one suspects that much is still being covered up.

Another theme running through the evidence is the close personal involvement of P.W. Botha, the former President, in the development of these weapons. Mr Botha was for many years Minister of Defence and then head of the State Security Council, which would have meant that he had to authorise such activities. It was also his personal physician, Wouter Basson, who became head of the biological weapons programme and it was Mr Botha's Government that authorised research in 1983 into genocidal weapons against blacks.

Moreover, in evidence presented to the commission yesterday, General Neil Knobel, the former Surgeon-General of the armed forces, testified that, long after Mr Botha had left office in 1989, Dr Basson



Neil Knobel, the former defence force Surgeon-General who has given damning testimony about P.W. Botha

still seemed to be taking his orders from his old boss.

This is deeply damaging to Mr Botha's attempts to display an air of injured self-righteousness in his court case over his refusal to testify before the commission.

F.W. de Klerk's Government, on coming to power, seems to have sought to dismantle the programme as quickly and quietly as possible, and many tonnes of poisons, cocaine and Ecstasy were dumped at sea in 1993.

The present Government's attitude to such weapons is not clear. Although South Africa signed the International Chemical Weapons Convention in 1993, Dr Basson was quickly rehired by the post-apartheid Government when

it came to power. At the outset of the commission's hearings, the Government unsuccessfully requested that matters relating to chemical and biological weapons be kept in closed session so as not to endanger state secrets.

Terre'Blanche confesses

Johannesburg: Eugene Terre'Blanche, leader of the white supremacist Afrikaner Resistance Movement, accepted responsibility, in an affidavit to the Truth and

Reconciliation Commission, for a right-wing reign of terror in which 21 people were killed, mostly black, and 46 injured, before South Africa's 1994 vote. (AFP)

Clinton rides out tobacco storm

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON attempted to put a positive spin on his latest political failure yesterday after Republicans killed a national tobacco Bill the White House had championed as the most important pillar of his domestic agenda.

The legislation, which would have raised cigarette prices by \$1.10 (68p) a pack in an effort to curb teenage smoking, had been on the brink of collapse after fierce Senate debate.

Support for the Bill, sponsored by John McCain, the Arizona Republican, failed twice on Wednesday night to gather the 60 votes needed to keep it alive in the Senate. Supporters fell three votes short of pushing the legislation towards final passage and needed seven votes to prevent it returning to committee.

It was a big defeat for Mr Clinton and public health groups and an equally big victory for conservative Republicans and tobacco companies, which had faced much negative publicity when documents emerged detailing a marketing strategy that targeted young smokers.

Tajikistan fears lake flood after quake

FROM REUTERS IN DUSHANBE

PRESIDENT Rakhmonov of Tajikistan has asked neighbouring states and Russia to help his country to prevent the overflow of a mountain lake threatening the Central Asian region.

Mr Rakhmonov has asked the presidents of Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan "to consider sending specialists or financial assistance to put the Sarez lake into a safer condition", his spokesman, Zafar Saidov, said.

He said the recent earthquake which killed between 3,000 and 5,000 people in neighbouring Afghanistan had created numerous cracks in the Pamir mountains in eastern Tajikistan where the large lake is situated.

Experts say that massive landslides into the lake could raise a huge wave which could trigger torrential mud slides affecting not only Tajikistan, but also neighbouring states. "This will also threaten the lives of the population of these countries," he said.

Natural disasters have already claimed more than 100 lives so far this year in Tajikistan.

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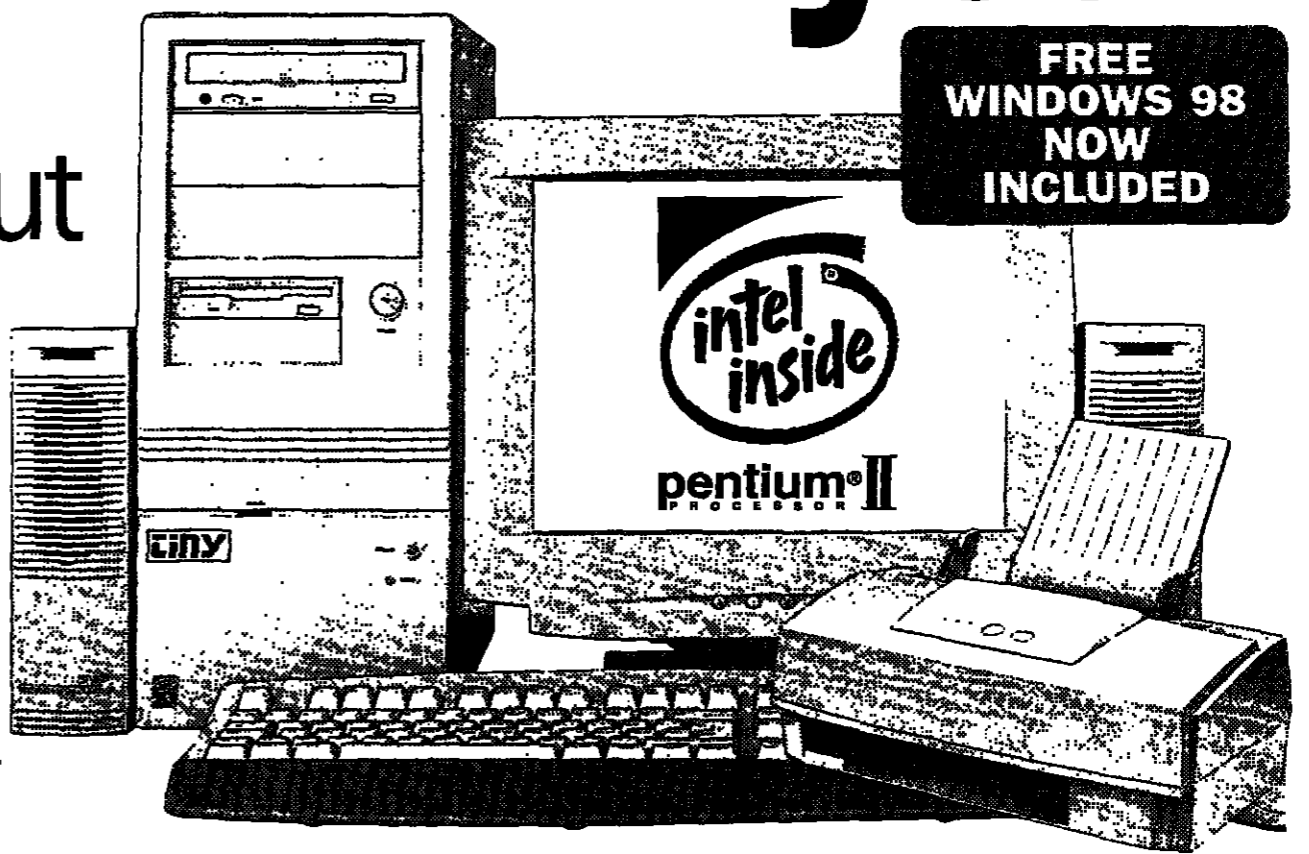
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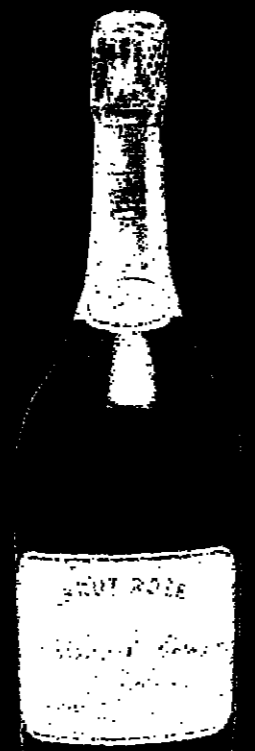
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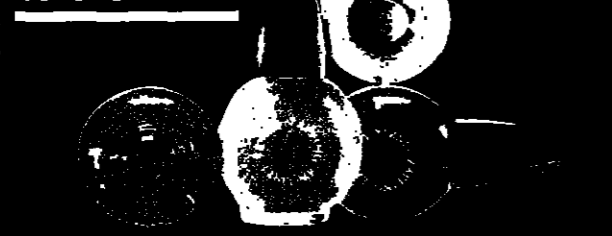
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Putting on the glitz



A long time ago, in the days before the dismemberment of the Soviet Union, I was sent by my then employer to the Moscow Book Fair with a suitcase full of John Fowles, Catherine Cookson and Ray Bradbury, for whom the

people stared. But somehow my meetings didn't seem to be going very well. I had the impression that I wasn't being taken altogether seriously, and I couldn't understand why, until I made my way down to the unspeakable cesspit that passed for a ladies' loo. There was a huge queue of glamorous women, all done up in sparkles and glitter as though to appear on stage at the Kirov. The effect was immensely impressive. It was a salutary lesson in the selling power of glitz.

This season's long, hot summer of glamour seems reluctant to begin but, while we all sit under umbrellas waiting for it to stop raining, it is worth taking a moment to consider the principles of sparkle in all its girly campness. The thing about camp, as Julian Clary would doubtless testify, is that it is easy to Go Too Far. When you find yourself contemplating an experiment with the Trailer Trash look — beware. The frontier between Jerry Hall rhinestone cowgirl on the one hand and Lily Savage on the other is one over which it is hideously easy to blunder without realising it.

Is there such a thing as non-crashy glitter? If there is, it has to be John Galiano's exquisite jacket for Givenchy in fine wool Prince of Wales check with a single jewelled button, sharply upcurving shoulders and long, gracefully flared sleeves. The whole, beautiful work of art is sprinkled with pale-blue rhinestones. It costs £2,120, which makes the plain, matching pencil skirt look rather a snip at £295.

If you are keen on the idea of glitz, Jaeger has a rather stolidly cut, boxy, round-necked jacket, £220 (reduced from £300) and matching skirt £70 (reduced from £130) in rough-woven, glittery pale-blue tweed. At Oasis there is an elegant grey and silver pinstriped bustier, £34.99, and trousers, £49.99. Oasis, in fact, do a very good line in restrained glitz — a finely knitted greige cotton

and viscose shift with steely bugle beading at neck and hem (very Armani) is £39.99, and a greeny-grey embroidered-neck sundress, scattered with iridescent sequin flowers is £64.99. A matching long jacket is £94.99. At Warehouse, an indigo denim skirt with a silvery small-trail flame motif is £38; low-waisted jeans are £45, and fine-knit halter tops in turquoise, white, aqua and silver, or mauve, pink, white and silver, are £30. A black sparkle crocheted skirt is £35, with a matching top, £35. Joseph Essentials do an elegant line of steely grey sparkle knitwear — a vest top is £69, short skirt £89, ribbed cardigan £99.

Grey stretch drill low-rise trousers with dull silver sequinned seams are £119. But if what you want is full-on Dolly Parton glamour, there is plenty of opportunity, from MaxMara's extraordinary shift, covered from breast to knee in tiny glass beads in three shades of blood red — arterial, venous, and clotted, £510, and Alexander McQueen's silver tissue and Lurex calf-length robe with zip at mid-thigh that enables it to be transformed into an eye-popping mini, £999 at Joseph.

At Katharine Hammett, outrageously tiny denim shorts trimmed in diamonds are £160 — wear with Amaya Arruaga's Lurex scooped-neck T-shirts in emerald, bronze, rose or amethyst, £69, for a Pretty Baby look. D&G's rhinestone-edged chiffon wrap mini is £160, and Moschino Cheap and Chic's beaded fishnet skirt, £140, could be camped up even further with Boots No. 17's glitter hair and body gel, £3.95, and colour-changing glitter nail varnish, £4. But if you want to bring someone's party to a halt, Liz Hurley-style, you'd best go to Gucci, where Wizard of Oz crimson-jewelled stilettoes are £410, and a show-stopping ruby bikini is £1,250. You will have to take the children out of prep school to pay for it — but what the hell. It's in a very good cause....

CUTTING EDGE

JANE SHILLING



OHAYO SHOW

The madcap model and designer who would rather display her talents in an art gallery than on the catwalk comes to Britain. Style this Sunday.

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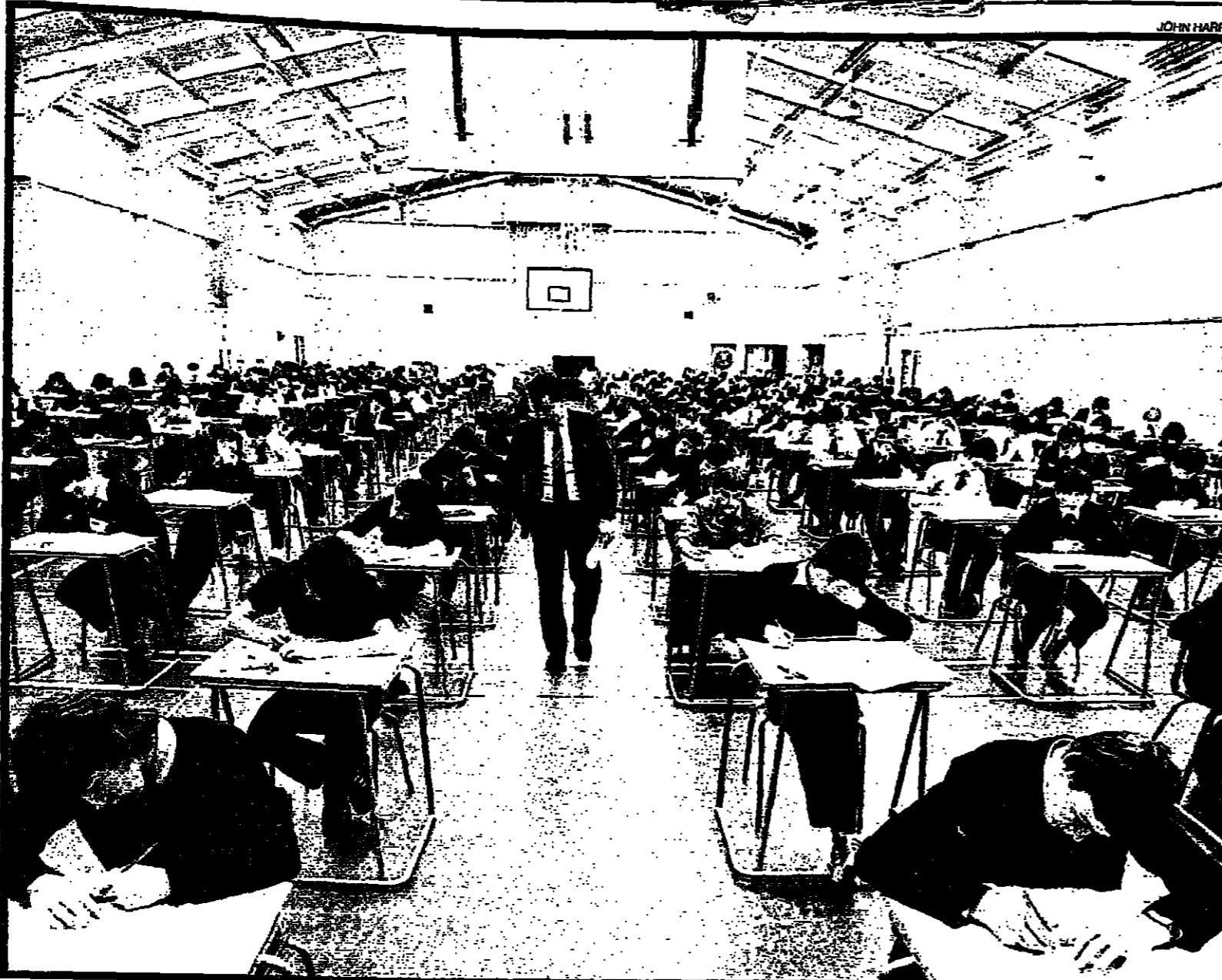
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British youngsters are the least likely in the world to cheat in their examinations. In Spain cheating is celebrated as an art form

Cheats and proud of it

Cheating is an art as old as the classroom — hands up everyone who has never scrawled an *aide memoire* on a scrap of paper or on the inside of a pencil case before being told to "start writing" by the invigilator.

With the exception of the swot, a rare breed in any classroom, the object of being a pupil is to get the best result possible by the application of the smallest amount of industry. Just ask Billy Bunter, or even the studious Tom Brown, or any of the thousands of schoolchildren and students sitting exams this month. But while Britons might blush to recall crib sheets and inky mnemonics, others seem to take pride in their trickery. Of course, cheating has always thrived, but to elevate petty deception to an art form is alien to our culture. Not so in Spain, though, where pulling the wool over the examiner's eyes has long been a common and highly imaginative practice. Now this solitary and shameful pursuit has been made the subject of a public exhibition with the most creative exponents of the art given hero status. The exhibition in the town of Manresa, 30 miles from Barcelona, shows that Spanish students are often prepared to spend more time and mental energy on preparing ingenious ways of cheating than they are in actually studying. "There is no doubt that in some cases it would have been easier to sit down and actually memorise everything," the organisers admit. Some techniques need several days of preparation. One of the more unusual methods on display involved hiding a two-way radio inside a plaster cast on a fake broken wrist. "The radio was used to transmit the questions to somebody else who could then come back with the answers," organisers explain. Crib sheets remain the most traditional and popular form of cheating. In Roman Catholic schools one of the more inventive ways of sneaking these into the examination hall involved writing on the back of Communion wafers, which were allowed to students "as a source of both spiritual and physical sustenance". The wafers had the additional advantage that they could be eaten in an emergency. Exams can still be usefully prepared for in the kitchen, with sweets, biscuits and other foodstuffs also used to hide crucial information. One brand of chocolate has even been based its television advertising campaign on a class of schoolchildren who use its wrappers as crib sheets. The list of other hiding places is as long as it is imaginative. Soft-drink labels can be soaked off, written on and then restuck. Once the liquid is drunk the crib sheet is revealed through the back of the glass. Medicine bottles and the inside of plasters are also good spots to hide those crucial facts that do not fit in the student's memory bank. Tiny crib sheets can also be tucked away inside pens or calculators or even disguised as part of the student's spectacles. The easiest way to spot those who rely most heavily on the *chuletas*, as crib sheets are called, is to listen to the sound they make as they walk into the exam room. Those who rustle loudest have been busy all night sewing them into the lining of their clothes. "I can even remember seeing a nun busy consulting crib sheets concealed in her habit," recalls one former university student. "But she did cross herself at the end of the examination... to ask forgiveness, I suppose." Exam cheating goes on at all levels of the Spanish education system, from primary schools to universities. "I think we have all cheated in an exam at some time in our lives," admits Alba Pascual, one of the exhibition's organisers. "Anyone who says otherwise must have a very poor memory." Students consider cheating to be an acceptable and highly rewarding exam technique. They approach their task as a sporting challenge. "All the exhibits have been provided by people who feel proud of the fact that their techniques for cheating were so successful." They want them displayed, Señoria Pascual adds. Some teachers complain that the culture of cheating has been created by excessive emphasis on rote learning and the vast number of exams that Spanish children face from the beginning of schooling. Those who know they have done badly in an exam sometimes repeat them at home and then try to swap the papers over in teachers' filing cabinets. Bright students can win friends by doing two exam papers simultaneously. Schools seem remarkably tolerant of the cheating phenomenon. The Manresa exhibition has been set up in the exhibition hall of a secondary school. "The teachers don't seem to mind," says Señoria Pascual, who works for a local cultural foundation. "They come to see it and they laugh as hard as anybody else." But the business of getting good grades despite failing to have read the set text is taken far more seriously elsewhere — there are no chortles, just lots of sore heads. In Bangladesh three years ago, nearly 70 people were injured and a magistrate assaulted in clashes between police and students demanding the right to cheat in the country's college finals. The undergraduates armed themselves with bombs, stones and took on examination monitors as well as officers in riot gear. The fighting, during an English test, followed the killing of a teacher by angry students after he tried to stop cheating at one examination hall. Here in Britain though, the spirit of fair play is still alive and well. While some of our politicians and sportsmen may have lost their reputation for honesty and probity, children have retained their sense of fair play and, according to a recent survey, are the "least likely in the world to cheat at their exams". Forty British pupils were caught out trying to con GCSE examiners last year, but cheat-

A siesta at work? I think I'll sleep on it

I love sleeping, and not only because it's so easy on your shoe-leather. Just the other day — this has probably happened to you, too — an officious person asked me out of the blue: "How come you like to sleep so much?" and I couldn't really give him a sensible answer on account of the fact that I happened to be in a deep sleep at the time. How it was that I came to be so fast asleep in Henry Kissinger's lap is another story (and a much better one). If only the CIA man had been smart enough to ask me that question instead. But the truth of it is that none of us sleeps nearly enough: just as the cost of living is invariably 10 per cent higher than your current salary, so the amount of sleep your body needs is always 50 minutes more than you've just had. And sleep is so versatile, being the perfect reward for those who have completed all the tasks of the day, and the perfect refuge for those who have not. It brings many other pleasures, too, though don't go thinking that I fall asleep as frequently as possible just so that I can engineer a situation wherein I can slap David Mellor around the face without getting arrested, because that would be simply childish. Being a mature, hard-working adult, with exhausting commitments, I in fact go to sleep as frequently as possible so that I can engineer a situation wherein I can make love to Isabelle Adjani without being arrested.

er at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. "Naps enhance morale, performance, production and safety." William Anthony, a psychology professor at Boston University, champions the benefits of sleep in his recently published book, *The Art Of Napping*, in which he points out that the world's dedicated nappers have included great artists and inventors such as Brahms and Thomas Edison (though Edison's heavy perspiration obviously required frequent changes of sheets). Another dozer was Leonardo da Vinci (who famously had the monogram on his pyjamas embroidered in reverse mirror image, which caused havoc for the ladies sorting clothes at the village dry cleaner's, since dry-cleaning hadn't been invented yet).



MAN ON TOP
JOE JOSEPH

Churchill said: "You must sleep sometime between lunch and dinner... you will accomplish more." Even Bill Clinton and Sharon Stone enjoy a nap — though obviously not with each other. (You never know where Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr is digging for evidence these days.) So, while it's encouraging that so many people are now awake for long enough to even carry out this research, it's surprising that scientists never cottoned on to sleep's merits without so much learned investigating. It seems so obvious. You only have to look at all those things that were produced by people who weren't fast asleep at the time: (a) the Millennium Dome, (b) Pop Tarts, (c) the Vietnam War, (d) Supermarket Sweep, (e) Dan Quayle. Sleep is so kindly it means that for one-third of his life, Dan Quayle never has to realise he is Dan Quayle (the only US vice-president even less memorable than Al Gore).

If it weren't for sleep, Howard Hawks would have had to call his film merely *The Big, Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks would have struggled to make a hit of a movie called Less in Seattle*, since audiences would have been too busy asking each other "Less what?" to care if they ever got to meet each other at the top of the Empire State building. Sleep is nature's way of stopping you watching *Hogan's Heroes* repeats on telly at 3am. Fat? Then sleeping is the easiest method you'll find for not eating for hours at a stretch. And it's a fascinating riddle, too: trying to work out if you snore in your sleep is like trying to establish if the light stays on when you close the fridge door. Don't you agree?

I said, DON'T YOU AGREE... Hey, wake up, there!

Research conducted by Nasa has found that a 40-minute nap in the middle of an eight-hour flight gives pilots "improved physiological alertness and performance". Many American offices — having accepted the now undisputed evidence that humans are designed for two sleeps a day — are even building relaxing slumber rooms where staff can kick off their shoes and enjoy a post-lunch siesta. "All workers would be better off if they were allowed to sleep for 25 minutes," according to David Dinges, a sleep research-

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The people who forgot their past

Daniel Johnson laments the loss of England's historical bearings

So the English are the Calibans of Europe. Alan Clark, spotting an Enoch Powell-shaped gap in the political spectrum, instantly establishes himself as champion of the white working class lads who have no other spokesman. But Clark, despite his penchant for Hitler memorabilia, is not merely an arriviste version of Oswald Mosley. He has spotted the fact that political malcontents are lost without a history, a self-justifying genealogy, a philosophy. His own account of the First World War, *The Donkeys*, claims that upper-class generals led the ancestors of our thugs to their deaths. At a recent private gathering he expounded eloquently his mistrust of free trade, his cultural nationalism and his loathing of multinational corporations.

If Clark were a generation younger, we might have here the beginnings of a radical reactionary movement on the lines of One Nation. Pauline Hanson's Australian nationalist party. The latter, with doubtless unconscious irony, derives its name from Disraeli's novel *Sybil*, or *The Two Nations* (1845), which was a tract against the social divisiveness spawned by industrial capitalism, and a manifesto of the Young England group of Tory romantics. Whatever one may think of Alan Clark, Disraeli showed that it was possible to civilise English nationalism, rendering it more cosmopolitan under the guise of imperialist rhetoric. *Imperium et Libertas*.

Since that zenith of empire, the English have permitted a depressing perversion of patriotism. We are proud of our pop stars than our politicians; where once we celebrated high culture, now we oggle low life; our rulers sugar every bitter pill of national decline with hollow pathos. Yet why, exactly, does English patriotism now strike such a false, sentimental note?

One answer is that the English have lost their historical bearings. The teaching of history has languished, and England is in the grip of a creeping amnesia, masked by a bogus heritage industry and exacerbated by a Government in love with novelty.

I am told that Gordon Brown — the only historian in the Cabinet, apart from David Clark — intends to make good this lack of hinterland by counterposing in his speeches a narrative of Britain-in-Europe to the Thatcherite Atlanticist Britain. The Government has already chosen its historiographers: David Cannadine, the director of the Institute for Historical Research and editor of a new multi-volume history of Britain; and his wife Linda Colley, whose *Britons* deconstructed the United Kingdom and provided an historical rationale for devolution. It is a curious fact that all the most politically influential historical schools of recent decades — the Peterhouse paradigm of high politics, the Cannadine-Colley model of the "invention of tradition", and the new Regius

Professor Quentin Skinner's postmodernist political thought — come from Cambridge. Oxford, meanwhile, is once again a home of lost causes.

Those who cherish the past for its own sake must stumble across the ruined landscape of the present. Of the Roman Catholic Church, Macaulay once wrote in mock admiration of its immutability: "She may still exist in undiminished vigour when some traveller from New Zealand shall, in the midst of a vast solitude, take his stand on a broken arch of London Bridge to sketch the ruins of St Paul's." London reinvents itself in every epoch, but not a few of the cities that were the wonders of Macaulay's world are now burnt-out cases.

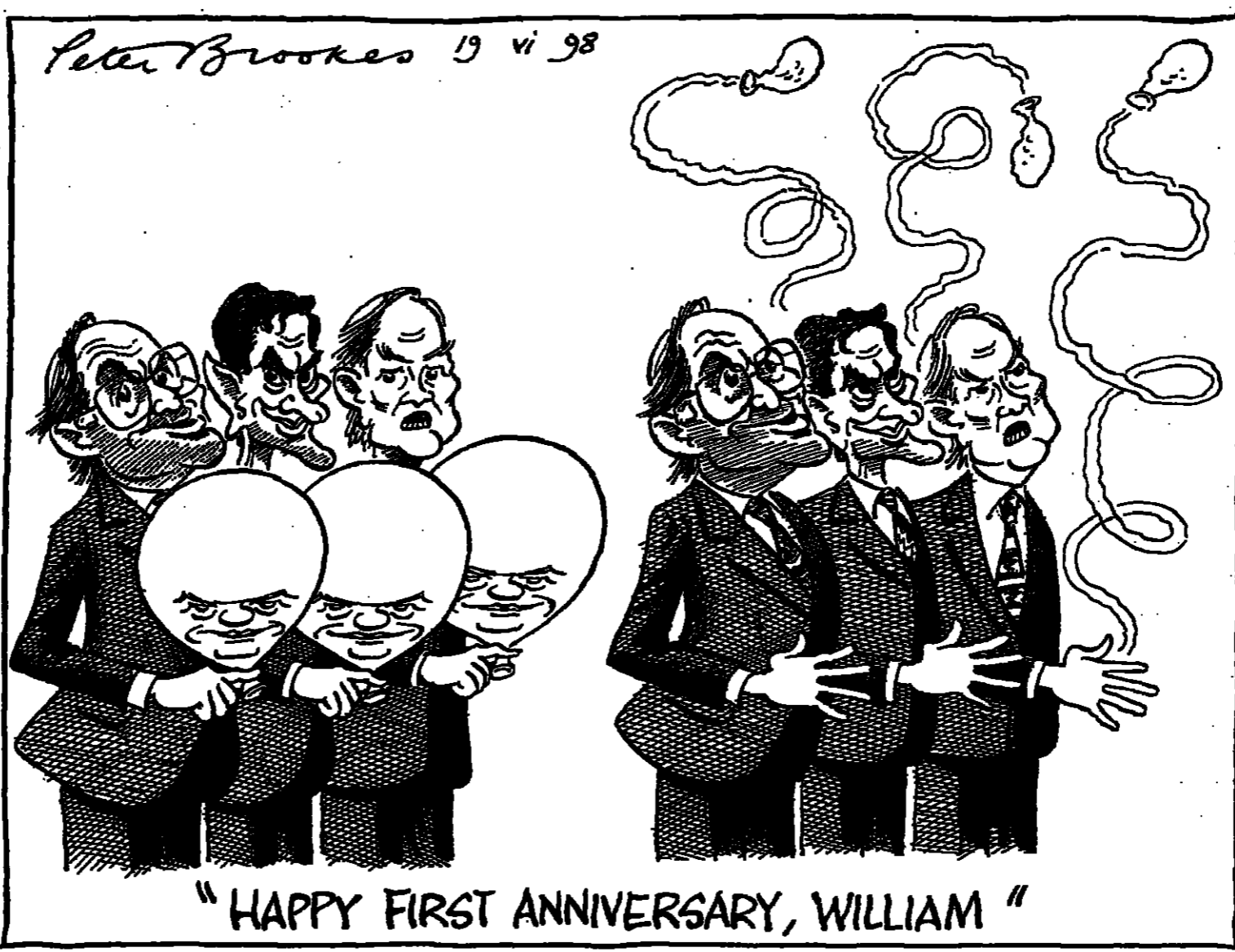
One such traveller — not from New Zealand, but from the Bavarian Alps — is W.G. Sebald. He has a day job as a professor of German literature in Norwich, but seems to spend most of his time wandering around the most desolate parts of East Anglia, and writing curious books about them that defy categorisation, being neither fiction nor travel literature.

He is really a philosopher posing as an antiquary, like his hero the 17th-century doctor Sir Thomas Browne, whose works he quotes endlessly in his latest volume, *The Rings of Saturn*. I recommend it warmly to those who miss all that once made England dear.

Yet our children must inherit what Sebald calls "that land now being lost forever". It is the young, even more than the old, who suffer most from historical disinheritance.

The trouble is that there are very few good history books for the young; publishers offer their works such as Sir Roy Strong's *The Story of Britain*, which offers insights and judgments, but never stories. Rebecca Fraser is writing a history of England for young people, but in the meantime I have been reading H.E. Marshall's *Our Island Story* to the elder two of my four children. Tycho, eight, and Edith, six, are hooked on this Edwardian tome, which offers them the narrative interest and chronological structure their school textbooks lack.

But it is not strange, even absurd, that, nearly a century after it was written, Henrietta Marshall's text has neither been superseded, nor has lost its hold over our imagination? A posthumous volume by that remarkable Marxist historian, the late Raphael Samuel, published today by Verso, even borrows her title. *Island Stories: Unravelling Britain* has a rich fund of subversive ideas; but it also displays an old-fashioned love of heroes and villains, myths and anecdotes. Significantly, his magnum opus, of which *Island Stories* is the second volume, is called *Theatres of Memory*. No nationalist, Samuel still thought remembering mattered. Why do we leave it to Marxists and Germans to celebrate and lament old England for us?



Strangers in the north

Labour will pay a high price in its neglected Scottish heartland

Those of us brought up in British colonies will remember that at the British Council it was possible to find copies of the London newspapers. Reading-rooms offered quiet respite from the heat and dust outside — and news about Britain. From paper as thin as leaves of the Bible, Andy Capp in the air mail edition of the *Daily Mirror* peeped out at tropical environs of which he and Flo knew little. But we knew little of Andy and Flo. We read about strikes and pit disasters and Blue Streak; and about "Why I Betrayed My Country" — by John Vassall in the *Sunday Pictorial*. We read about Profumo and Maudling; and we knew it all somehow affected us — we knew these papers came from close to the heartbeat of the imperial authority at whose toes we crawled. But the heart was unfamiliar. We did not understand the murmurs, the palpitations, the furring of arteries so far away. Things were happening but we could not read their significance. We guessed they mattered, that morale was ebbing — and were unnerved.

Something of the same shudder should go down the English spine as we hear that all is not well for Labour in Scotland, the seat of this Government's power and moral confidence. I often pass the newspaper rack by the travel office on the lower ground floor of the House of Commons. The rack starts its day with every British daily paper, but in the way of newspaper racks, most of its birds have flown by lunch and never return. By early evening, when I pass, only the papers nobody cares to read are left. These are the Scottish newspapers. I register their front-page headlines as I pass.

You would think you were in another Britain, if these were your breakfast reading. All the London-based triumphalism of new Labour vanishes. Scotland feels, from her headlines, like a vale of tears. Without apology, I simply list these headlines from *The Herald*, *The Scotsman* and *Scotland on Sunday*, all of which have appeared in the past few weeks.

"Dewar in Cabinet war over Douray Closure". "MP Graham guilty of blackmail": "30,000 wages for councillors to root out sleaze" (these three all on the same front page, the same day). "Rejected MPs vow to fight Labour". "Labour MPs put up rebel candidate for top position". "Charges of mockery and nepotism greet Labour candidate

selection". "MP to be disciplined, councillors forced to resign: party doesn't have to seek its troubles". "Crisis deepens for Labour at debt council". "Labour's Scots spin-doctor resigns after two months". "Labour lose out through lack of the tartan touch". "SNP swings towards power at Holyrood". "Labour pays the penalty". "Chilling howl of the people's displeasure". "Dewar dumps council leaders". "Dewar faces Labour flak". "Failures like this must never be allowed to happen again". "Westminster crumbs not enough for

London mayoralty, or Alan Clark's opinion of English football hooligans, or the Millennium Dome... and these are things you understand: these, surely, are what British politics are about? Aren't they?

My own engagement with those distant battles in that faraway country of which I know little is tangential: every month or so I look in on Scottish Questions in the Commons. I gain three overriding impressions. Firstly, the alienation of the onlooker from the action. Second, an unmistakable sense of taboo about certain key questions; and, third, the breaking of Donald Dewar.

To watch Scots MPs discussing their country in a London chamber is rather like watching, as a tourist, while the inhabitants of an exotic place perform a traditional dance. Every step, every swirl, every ceremonial skirmish, must mean something, to be sure — but what? We have no reference points. In Scottish politics we are unfamiliar with the old feuds, the buried disputes, with the groupings, rivalries and cliques; verbal formulations which are only shorthand for declarations of a deeper sort are lost on us. We sense that government ministers are hanging fire on Scottish Conservatism — though that abject creature looks ready for bayoneting. With Scottish Liberal Democrats, Labour seems to fence rather than bludgeon.

But for the Scottish National Party we sense a visceral hatred. There is a living quality to this loathing; the wounds are raw, the blood fresh. Listen to Tony Blair reciting his tired and formulaic attacks on the Westminster Tories and you witness a routine as stale as an air-hostess's safety-demonstration before take-off. But watch Donald Dewar, and real disgust, as vivid as lightning.

And something has happened to Mr Dewar. Before last summer, as he steered his Bill for the referendum on devolution through the Commons, there was about him the air of the maestro; a glimpse of red lining to his sombre coat. Beneath his habitually

dry manner, there was a hiss and sizzle. He looked happy at the dispatch box. He made jokes. Everybody kept saying how clever he was. This was a confident performer.

But Dewar has soured. His manner is defensive and his fight meander-spirited. Yet this is the same chamber, the same Parliament — and he is in the same job. It is rather like watching a colleague at work, whom we know only in the workplace, changing as a year passes. So far as we know, nothing's wrong with the job, yet his good humour has vanished. We speculate that something's wrong at home.

Something's wrong at home for Mr Dewar. Scotland is home. But Scotland is home to more than Dewar. Scotland is the spiritual home of this Government. As Mary Ann Sieghart pointed out on this page yesterday, the top four jobs in the Government are held by Scots: Prime Minister, Lord Chancellor, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Foreign Secretary. In all, nine members of this Cabinet are Scottish. Scottish seats account for a far higher proportion of the Parliamentary Labour Party than the proportion of Scots in the electorate as a whole would yield. I reckon that at least 20 Scottish men and women represent English seats for Labour. I know of nobody who would call themselves English representing a Scottish seat for the party.

And crude figures understate the Scottishness of Labour. "Community" — the collective rather than individualistic approach to the philosophy of government — has always been at home in Scotland, uneasy in England. Many of the spiritual roots of the Labour movement come from Scotland, and to a lesser extent Wales. If Tony Blair's new-found popularity among the English middle classes withers, his party will hope for Scottish friends to see it through the storm.

If Labour came to feel that having set out from the home port to conquer new lands in the English Home Counties, the home port were now under siege and the harbour in danger of ransack, then the party would be seized with a strange and atavistic unease. Where would there be to go back to? This is how we settlers used to feel as we read, from abroad, of unfathomable difficulties in our old country. Cut off from base, and the base in trouble. Donald Dewar's furrowed brow says it all.

Matthew Parris

Stage frights

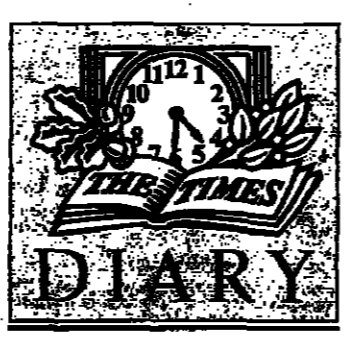
TONY BOOTH, the Prime Minister's problem father-in-law, is organising a Lefty revolution to overthrow the new Labour moderates who run the actors' union, Equity. Word has reached a powerful coalition of senior theatricals who have vowed to defeat Booth, a gloomy old Luddite.

These include Sir Derek Jacobi, Julie Walters, Sir David Hare, Juliet Stevenson, Timothy West, Sheila Hancock and Dawn French. They are to call on fellow thespians to see off Cherie Booth's dad and guarantee that the union "moves forward into the 21st century". Booth, who made his name in *Till Death Us Do Part*, has been a member of the ruling group of Equity for the past four years. But, after opposing plans to slim down the union, make it more democratic and, *ugh*, raise funds by buying and selling shares on the Stock Exchange, he has now formed a breakaway group to stand for elections next month for the ruling committee. The actor Michael Cashman is furious: "Booth is a table thumper and a voice raiser. He wants to overturn attempts at modernisation." And

we know what his son-in-law would make of that.

ELTON JOHN is writing a tribute song to his late friend Gianni Versace. Its title? Bitch. "That's how we used to greet each other," Mr John explains.

Declaring early WHERE were our England cricket heroes on the eve of the second



Test? Locked up in hotel bedrooms, thumbing through yellowing editions of *Wisden*? Nope. Some were in a wine bar in North London, drinking beer and watching the World Cup on TV. Michael Atherton, deposed as captain but still our star opening bat, and Angus Fraser, key strike bowler, cradled bottles of Budweiser in the bar that boasts of being a favourite of Gaza.

Dean Headley and Robert Croft were among those who retuffed on weaker stuff. By Teddy Sheringham's standards, the party's behaviour was decidedly lacklustre. Conversation dwelt on the short ball, and on the stroke of 9.30 they left, like Cinderellas on Horlicks. Left: I am sure, for bed.

PAVAROTTI has been ringing Geri Halliwell (née Ginger Spice)

to persuade her to return to the pop group. His argument? That if the three tenors had put artistic differences before making money, they would never have sung a note.

Solid grounds Do not let anyone tell you that New Labour is short of big ideas. Clare Short, the International Development Secretary with self-proclaimed mission to make the world a fairer place, has moved one step closer to achieving her goal. She is exhorting 500 leading British firms to switch their office vending machines to 'ethical coffee'.



The pilot scheme for this groundbreaking idea took place in the House of Commons, where Ms Short had all the House coffee machines switched over in November. Ms Short, an ardent supporter of the Fair Trade Initiative which guarantees a good price to penniless coffee farmers, has written to all the *Financial Times* 500 companies asking them to follow suit. Only one question remains. Will 'ethical coffee' taste any better than the muddy sludge dispensed by vending machines the world over, including Diary Towers? If so, Ms Short has our full backing.

PUNK singer turned patrician countrywoman Toyah Willcox (left) returned to her Wiltshire manor house to find it crawling with police. Her pet rabbit, Beaton (named after the old snapper Cecil, former owner of the house), which she allows to run around "as if the house were a rabbit warren", had gnawed through a burglar alarm cable. "The police were worried that I had been kidnapped," she suggests, a little implausibly.

On her oaths SADE, whose wine-bar melodies tipped a thousand Eighties bankers to infidelity, has caused an



international incident. A warrant for her arrest has been issued in Jamaica, requiring her presence in court to face charges of dangerous driving, assaulting a police officer and indecent language. Judicial sorts are as cross as a rum punch. Sade (above) is unrepentant: "It is very likely that I will be arrested if I return. I have already appeared in court four times but the other side always fail to turn up. I'm not going back again, because I do have a life."

Philip Howard



Football? Well it's the same old story, innit?

Our Prime Minister expresses shock/horror/surprise at the behaviour of English football fans. Never has his flabber been so gasted. As usual, he does not know (or chooses to ignore) history. For the story of our island race from the Battle of the Medway to the Falklands has been made by young men behaving badly. When they cannot have fun killing and pillaging foreigners, they enjoy kicking each other drunkenly. Long before Britannia was Cool she was notoriously Cruel and Carned. This page is not the place for scoops. But here is the *Old English Hooligan's Bole of Footballing Saws, Songs and Yobberbs*, discovered under a pile of filthy football strips unwashed for 13 centuries. The spelling has been modernised. The language has been bowdlerised:

If there is one thingge that I hate more than a male Saxonist pigge it is a woman who doth not do what she be tolde. For ye women are all dogges, as football supporters still proclaim. Ye referee's a wonker (repeated over and over again after a dodgy decision). Note the monotonous, rhythmic repetition of Anglo-Saxon football verse, as in *Beowulf*: "Cheer up Kevin, Keeagan! Oh what can it mean! To a fat Geordie Bastard! And a sh-t football team!"

Now in the Year of our Lord 749, a Danish raiding party was defeated at Kingston-upon-Thames. And by way of celebration, ye victorious Saxons afterwards played a game of football with the head of the Viking chieftain. And there was much blood and beer and bottle-throwing, and of course rape. And so was ye Game of Football born. Or so legend hath it. And it proved so popular that by 1314 King Edward II issued the first of many red cards: "Forasmuch as there is great noise in the City caused by hustling over large balls, from which many evils may arise, which God forbid, we command and forbid, on behalf of the King, on pain of imprisonment, such a game to be used in the City in future."

When I was just a little boy! I asked my mother "What should I be?" Should I be Pompey, should I be Saints? Here's what she said to me: "Wash your mouth out son! Go fetch your father's gun! And shoot some Pompey scum! Support the Saints!" "You're going to get your effing heads kicked." To Grimby: "You're sh-t and you smell of fish." As the goalkeeper takes a goal kick: "You're Sh-t AAAAAATrrrry gggghhh!" "My old man! Said be a Pompey fan! I said '*** off, ***, you're a ****!"

In 1531, Sir Thomas Elyot, who wrote *Boke of the Governour*, the first treatise on education in English, described football as "nothing but bestialie furie and extreme violence". Philip Stubbes, Puritan pamphleteer wrote a more colourful footnote in the *Anatomie of Abuses* (1533): "As concerning football, I protest unto you that it may rather be called a friendly kind of fight than a play or recreation — a bloody and murdering practise than a fellowly sport or pastime. And hereof [sic football] groweth envy, malice, rancour, choler, hatred, displeasure, enmity and what not else; and sometimes fighting, brawling, contention, quarrel-picking, murder, homicide and great effusion of blood, as experience daily teacheth."

Football is described as a contact sport. But it is not. Football is a collision, tripping, hacking, shirt-tugging, stud-raking, writhing-in-unconvincing-agony-for-a-penalty sport. Dancing is a good example of a contact sport. In 1862 the Old Salopians Thring and de Winton drew up the "Cambridge Rules" for football: "Kicks must be aimed only at the ball; No tripping or heel-kicking allowed," etc. They are disregarded now, as they were then. Nothing has changed. The Saxon and Viking chieftains who run football are still thick, arrogant and full of bungs. The players are still overpaid, over-sexed, violent, drunken donkeys, whose mothers should buy them a bigger size of football boots and hats. If anybody stocked such gigantic sizes. Who can be surprised that the fans also behave badly? You can still see sporting behaviour at football, at schools or at lowly clubs such as Brentford and Ayr United, though the lesser players imitate the greater. You can have peaceful pastimes. Or you can have football. It is difficult to enjoy both at the same time. It always has been.

JASPER GERARD



UNHAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Hague must be bolder in abandoning the Tory past

One year ago, William Hague was elected leader of the Conservative Party, a shocked and discredited rump of what had once been a government. If there was one silver lining in an exceptionally dark cloud, it was the perception that his party's prospects could only improve. The unknown element was how long that process would take. It can now be said with confidence that the answer is more than 12 months. The Conservatives have another difficult year ahead — probably two years.

This is not an auspicious anniversary. Mr Hague's position as leader is secure enough. He will almost certainly lead the Tories into the next general election. But his party remains hugely unpopular and Mr Hague's personal poll ratings are equally miserable. Even his inner circle is nervous about his inability to project his personality on television. Voters seem not so much hostile to Mr Hague as simply indifferent. There is little worse in politics than being ignored.

This verdict is somewhat harsh. The Conservative leader has hardly been inactive over the past year. He has acknowledged mistakes made by the Major administration. He has eased out some old figures and introduced new faces. He has made a set of impressive speeches on substantive issues. He has steered through a fundamental revision of the Conservative Party constitution. He has often outperformed Tony Blair in the House of Commons. His party has stopped losing seats in local elections. Predictions that the Tories would split into rival parties have not come to pass. In current conditions, these are not inconsiderable achievements.

But there is scant evidence that the public is interested, never mind impressed. The short-term temptation for the Tories is to pay excessive attention to the black arts of public relations. There is certainly room for improvement in their ability to communicate their message. This is not, however, the heart of the matter. The Tories would be unwise to spend too much time on new makeup techniques or refining their leader's accent. They need to have something appealing to

talk to the nation about. Mr Hague is not responsible for the dire state of his party; the relationship is really the other way round.

The Conservatives would be well advised to let their leader follow his instincts. Mr Hague's expressions of regret for the last Government's failings have not been well received by some who served in those Cabinets. He has restrained his criticism as a result. He has been inclined to expand on his theme of embracing racial and sexual minorities. The opposition of senior colleagues has obstructed that enterprise. Mr Hague also wanted to show flexibility on constitutional matters — starting with the House of Lords — but was discouraged by those for whom the defence of the hereditary peerage is a matter of high principle. The Conservative leader has sought to send new signals to the electorate; these are far too subtle for the country in its current mood.

The Conservatives cannot be reconstructed on the basis of coded messages. The distinction between the past and the future must be bright and clear. The projection of personality is an indispensable element of the television era. But politicians can define their own image by the way in which they impose themselves on those around them. Mr Blair's success is not simply the result of slickness (as too many Tories are inclined to think). It is his reward for changing the policies and tone of his party.

The Conservative Party still seems much more reluctant than its leader to absorb this lesson. Over the next 12 months, Mr Hague should draw a line under the Major era as firmly as Tony Blair dissociated himself from the Labour Party of the 1980s. He should reach out wholeheartedly to those voters whom the Tories have often ignored. He cannot allow himself to be held hostage by a narrow clique whose idea of conservatism is that nothing should ever happen for the first time. Mr Hague will doubtless be told that such moves might alienate some traditional Tory supporters. He should be rather more concerned with that large and critical section of the electorate for whom his party is, at present, completely irrelevant.

HOME TRUTHS

Woodward did not receive an unfair trial

The yellow ribbons have come down in Elton. A sad saga appears to have reached its end. Millions in Britain empathised with Louise Woodward at the time of her trial and original sentence. Her first class ticket home and the possibility that she might receive payment for her story have commanded considerable attention. A more important issue is her statement that she did not receive a fair trial. Miss Woodward is entitled to maintain her innocence and to argue that a jury and then the Massachusetts State Supreme Court came to the wrong conclusion in her case. But her claim that the process which convicted her also cheated her does not convince at all.

Miss Woodward noted that public prosecutors in Massachusetts are elected figures. She concluded that she had been put on trial for their political benefit. She charged that "arrogant pre-trial publicity" had undermined her defence. She implied that the jury had made its mind up before the trial began. She protested that the prosecution had presented a dubious theory of "shaken baby syndrome" to the court and that other medical evidence, favourable to her, had failed to materialise. There will be those who believe, especially after the O. J. Simpson charade, that American justice is not what it should be. Miss Woodward seems to be exploiting that sentiment for all it is worth.

The facts are in stark conflict with her contention. The death of a child in uncertain circumstances merited a criminal investigation. The same pre-trial publicity produced

an extensive and expensive defence team. There can be few citizens of Massachusetts, outside the Kennedy clan, who could have afforded or acquired such representation. Sentiment within the state may have initially been hostile but shifted as the televised trial developed. Americans were also surprised and shocked when she was found guilty of second degree murder. The jury took 27 hours to reach its verdict. Kangaroo courts do not normally take that long.

The jurors had been put in an unenviable position. The defence lawyers, presumably after consultation with their client, decided to force the jury to choose between a murder conviction and outright acquittal, without the option of involuntary manslaughter. Those who play Russian roulette with the law cannot complain if a bullet comes out of the barrel. This same defence team failed adequately to challenge the evidence on shaken baby syndrome. None of this was the fault of the Massachusetts legal system.

Judge Hillier Zobel used his authority to rescue Miss Woodward from the folly of her attorneys. He then showed common sense and some mercy by restricting her sentence to that of time served. After careful review, the Massachusetts Supreme Court, an unelected body, upheld all aspects of his decision. Miss Woodward's case received not one but three inspections. Jury, Judge, and appeal court concurred that she was, in some way, involved in the death of Matthew Eappen. Miss Woodward has no grounds for putting American law on trial.

BONFIRE OF THE NINETIES

In *The Times* tomorrow: a great novelist grasps a new era

A pause in the right place, all fine writers know, can be as powerful as prose. But few contemporary authors have understood this better than Tom Wolfe. With *The Bonfire of the Vanities* he brought the ellipsis back into fashion. Then, when this first novel had been published and promoted and hailed as a classic, Wolfe, ever the accomplished showman, paused.

Rumour roused itself into frenzied expectations of a sequel. Something important, it was assumed, was in the pipeline. But as a decade rolled by — as *Bonfire* was sold in its millions, lectured on, imitated and made into a meretricious film — the mystery surrounding Wolfe's next work deepened. When he failed to deliver a manuscript in 1997, one American newspaper speculated that his talent had dried up. "Wolfe huffed, puffed and blew his deadline," the story ran. But now the keenly awaited new work is complete. *A Man in Full*. Tomorrow, *The Times Magazine* is to publish the first exclusive extract, to be followed by more later this year.

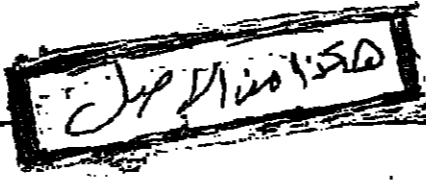
The Bonfire of the Vanities did for 1980s New York what in an earlier century Thackeray and Dickens did for London, or Balzac and Hugo for Paris. It defined an era: Balzac and Hugo for Paris. Its power lay in captured the spirit of an age. Its power lay in its panoramic vision, in its sprawling social verity lay in its realism, in meticulous

observation and penetrating description. And its delight lay in its raw vitality. In the needling, energetic prose, Wolfe captured the materialism of the 1980s and its nemesis.

But though he dealt with the downfall of the individual, Wolfe did not foretell the broader Wall Street collapse of 1987. Financial meltdown is the subject of his new novel. In *A Man in Full* the focus has shifted from boom to bust, from the end of the 1980s to the early 1990s. Now the protagonist is Charlie Coker, a deep southern tycoon with expensive tastes and a trophy wife to support. But the banks are calling in their money and some desperate decisions lie ahead.

Played out against the race politics of Atlanta and with a characteristically broad cast — a middle class black lawyer, his friend a black mayor and a footballer charged with raping a society girl — this novel, like its predecessor, promises to chronicle its times, and leave the same, not entirely pleasant, aftertaste behind.

Tomorrow's extract in *The Times* shows that Wolfe has lost none of the verbal exuberance, the acerbic observation or the lowering sense of chaos that made *Bonfire* so compulsive, and which marked Wolfe as one of the most influential novelists of his times. Unlike Kingsley Amis and Joseph Heller, writers who once captured the Zeitgeist of a moment in a way that they could never quite match again. Tom Wolfe has shown that he can make a blazing bonfire for the nineties.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Effects of single currency on Britain's competitive edge

From Mrs Christina Speight

Sir, I am sure that Mr Vernon Ellis of Andersen Consulting (letter, June 15), who states that "exports to EU partners of goods alone have risen in value by 234 per cent in real terms since we joined the EEC 25 years ago", does not mean to mislead.

However, the fact is that before we joined the EEC our trade with Europe was largely in balance. It is now hugely in deficit; with the 14 countries of the EU the 1996 figure was an adverse £8.39 billion trade balance. In the last 11 years alone, according to the Office for National Statistics, the result of our membership of the EEC/EC/EU has been a cumulative deficit of £136 billion. For our economic wellbeing, what counts is not the volume but the balance of trade.

Those favouring Britain's entry into the single currency always quote the export figures, implying that increased exports lead to more employment. While this may be true, the reverse must almost always be true: therefore the greater growth in imports from the EU than in exports to it has led to a loss of jobs.

To concentrate on an unfavourable trading area at the expense of our trade with our natural markets in the rest of the world, with whom we are in surplus, is a self-evidently foolish policy, though this is apparently what Mr Ellis recommends.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINA SPEIGHT,
20 Ramillies Road, W4 1JN,
June 15.

From Mr William Cash, MP
for Stone (Conservative)

Sir, Your pro-EMU correspondents Vernon Ellis and Michael Welsh (letters, June 15) fail to ask the key question: if inward investment into the United Kingdom has increased, why is this so?

Recent surveys have shown that the primary reasons are labour mobility, the English language, and the fact that Britain is not tied to the deflationary monetary policies of the euro zone. At the very moment when it is clear

that Britain will not join the single currency for the time being, Honda's announcement of a massive new car plant in Swindon (report, Business Roundup, June 11, later editions) underlines this.

Our trade with the EU is certainly very great, but it has been in deficit for decades, and in 1996 that deficit totalled over £8 billion or 70 per cent of the whole trade deficit. By contrast, our earnings — in trade, services, and from foreign investment — in North America and in Asia are overwhelmingly profitable.

However, the key issue is constitutional. Tony Blair wants to shift the debate on to economic terrain because he knows he can never win the constitutional argument. He dare not tell the British people that they would have to surrender their autonomy in key areas of government.

Business leaders should be under no illusions that commercial freedom and competitiveness depend on political freedom, and that they will lose this in the undemocratic, unaccountable Europe under construction at Cardiff.

Like the wise virgins (Matthew xxv) the Euro-realists want only a proper relationship, with their oil and gold reserves intact.

Yours faithfully,
BILL CASH
(Vice-Chairman,
Conservative Backbench Committee
on European Affairs),
The European Foundation,
61 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5HZ,
June 15.

From the Director of
the European Movement

Sir, The case against EMU presented by Business for Sterling (letter, June 11) is weak, factually inaccurate, and represents the views of only a minority of British business. In March this year an Institute of Export members' survey showed 72 per cent in favour of Britain joining EMU; and a CBI poll of its members in November 1997 also had 72 per cent in favour of the UK joining once economic convergence had taken place.

Contrary to your correspondents' claim, the stability pact does not stop governments setting their own tax and spending policies — it simply limits excessive government borrowing. Are Lord Marsh and his supporters really arguing for a lax fiscal policy? EMU entails a common monetary policy, but responsibility for all other aspects of economic policy will remain with member states. Capital mobility, encouraged by EMU, will help alleviate unemployment.

The British economy is coming into line with Europe. Structural differences are far less significant than has been suggested and are diminishing. For example, British mortgage holders are increasingly switching to borrowing at fixed interest rates.

Far from blunting our competitive performance, Britain's competitive edge will be enhanced by the single currency. Businesses previously held back by the volatile pound and exchange rate fluctuations will be able to perform to their full potential. It is clear where the balance of advantage lies for most of them.

Yours etc,
STEPHEN WOODARD,
Director, European Movement,
Dean Bradley House,
52 Horseferry Road, SW1P 2AF,
June 12.

From Mr Michael Ivens

Sir, Your leader, "Sterling performance" (June 12), suggests that businessmen should use economic arguments against EMU. But it would be wrong and unrealistic to oppose their use of political arguments.

Businessmen are motivated to oppose the single currency by political as well as economic values. It is their distaste for a corporatist, centralised, bureaucratic Europe that impels them to oppose EMU as well as an awareness of the dangers of economic and monetary union.

Yours,
MICHAEL IVENS
(Consultant, Aims of Industry),
2 Mulgrave Road, NW10 1BT,
June 13.

Pensions for divorcees

From Dr Richard D. Ryder

Sir, The Government seems determined to encourage divorce ("Divorcees get rights to husband's pension", report, June 9). Recent proposals to reform the divorce laws increase existing incentives for spouses to leave hardworking partners.

Divorce law is an easy way for an unemployed person to make a killing. It is not unusual for an innocent partner to be forced by the law to pay a deserting spouse £300,000-£400,000. Is it any wonder that divorce rates have doubled in 20 years with incentives such as these?

Surely, where children are not involved, the nanny state should not interfere at all. If adults want to change partners it is no business of the State. The law is based upon the archaic and sexist assumption that a non-working partner has massively contributed to the family economy in some other way. The truth is sometimes exactly the opposite.

Yours faithfully,
R. D. RYDER,
Hay House,
Hayer, Devon TQ13 9XR,
June 10.

From Mr Stephen Green

Sir, I accept that a pension should be regarded as the joint asset of a marriage, but case histories of divorced women who would have benefited from pension-splitting always raise the question, "Who was at fault?" It is a fundamental Judeo-Christian principle that the law should discern between the innocent and the guilty, however difficult or irritating that might be to do.

If the husband deserted or committed adultery, then of course the pension should be split; indeed 50 per cent appears generous to him. But if the wife were at fault, the husband will be dealt a massive injustice. Women are not free from sin; a gold-digging adulterous woman could end up with two or three half-pension shares.

If the legislation will not recognise fault, couples about to marry may want to rely on conduct as a just basis for deciding who gets what when they draw up their pre-nuptial agreements. A pension may well be one of the assets they include. But if the courts are given the right to alter these agreements, as you report, then they will not be worth the paper on which they are written.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN GREEN
(Honorary National Director,
Christian Voice),
PO Box 526,
Sutton, Surrey SM3 8AA,
June 10.

Bad memories

From Mr Kenneth Seakens

Sir, Inflation up, unemployment up, indirect taxation up, prestige down. One year on and it's new Labour — old habits.

Yours faithfully,
K. SEAKENS,
18 Station Approach,
Virginia Water, Surrey GU25 4DW,
June 18.

Monitoring surgeons

From Professor John W. Norris

Sir, While the response of the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland to the recent events in the Bristol paediatric unit are praiseworthy (letter, June 9), caution is needed. A personal operative audit of surgeons, made by themselves, may prove a double-edged sword.

In the Department of Neurology here at the University of Toronto, we have conducted such audits for carotid surgery (operation on neck arteries to prevent stroke) for over ten years.

We soon found that surgeons cannot objectively audit themselves and always under-reported their complication rates, more subconsciously than as an organised attempt to improve their image. One senior surgeon refused to let us audit him, because he was confident that none of his patients had suffered any complications or died from his operative procedures.

We are also concerned that these data could be abused should they fall into the wrong hands. We coded all surgeons (and patients) for reasons of anonymity and confidentiality, but have had great pressure from surgeons, as groups and as individuals, to have access to the data.

Pot and kettles

From Mr J. S. Young

Sir, It's all very well for Sir George Martin to condemn the use of drugs in the music industry (report, June 17); but considering that he produced the most influential group of our time, The Beatles, who were certainly not averse to the odd leaf or two, it's a bit rich, just like he is.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES S. YOUNG,
20 Hawthorn Road, Barry,
Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 6LE.
youngj@btadgen-celloboard.co.uk
June 18.

Dressing for dinner

From Mr George Racz

Sir, Gordon Brown's deliberate disregard of the convention to wear formal clothes at the Mansion House dinner (reports, June 12) will not endear him to the students whom he has saddled with tuition fees, or the old folk whose tax relief on private health insurance he has removed. They will not vote for him even if at the next state banquet he sports jeans and trainers.

Dressing down and flouting convention will simply alienate those who value tradition and good manners.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE RACZ,
7 Wellington House,
Eton Road, NW3 4SY,
June 12.

Business letters, page 33

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Tribes steer clear of 'civilisation'

From the Director General of Survival International

Sir, Gabriella Gaminí ("Mystery tribe" is found in Brazil", report, June 9) speculates that the Amazonian rain forest may be "the sole remaining home to peoples who have had no contact with 'civilisation'". In fact, such tribes exist in the Andaman Islands, New Guinea, the Paraguyan Chaco, and the Andean foothills in Bolivia, and probably elsewhere.

Ms Gaminí states that it is only the second time this decade that a new tribe has been discovered in the Amazon. In reality, "first contact" situations happen fairly often, and not just in Amazonia. In 1987 an uncontacted tribe emerged from the forest in Irian Jaya, Indonesia, and after a brief look around decided to remain uncontacted. Not a bad idea, considering that around 43,000 tribespeople are believed to have been killed by Indonesian soldiers since the 1960s.

I have encountered Indians in Amazonia who have occasionally seen, and even talked with, "uncontacted" people who have simply chosen to remain so. However difficult it may be for us to accept, these peoples are not living fossils who show us how we once were: they are every bit as contemporary as you or I, just different.

"Civilisation" is neither as ubiquitous nor as enticing as both its proponents — and, it has to be said, its opponents — like to believe. There is no mystery about what is to become of "uncontacted" tribes: if their land ownership rights are respected, they stand every chance of surviving and adapting to their changing situation.

Unfortunately the people mentioned in your report live in Brazil — the only Amazonian country where Indians cannot own any land, in spite of the international conventions which say they can and do. One effect of Brazil's failure to abide by international law in this respect is that outsiders invade Indian territory, bringing disease and decimation.

This is not an historical inevitability, as it is usually portrayed, but a crime against humanity. It is a crime which could easily be prevented if the countries in which tribal peoples' lands are being stolen — these include Canada, which seems intent on destroying the Innu Indians in Labrador and Quebec — chose to uphold the law rather than carry on flouting it.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN CORRY,
Director General,
Survival International,
11-15 Emerald Street, WC1N 3QL.
survival@gn.apc.org
June 11.

Ladies first

From Flight Lieutenant Janet Hamilton-Wilks

Sir, I am happy to say that Lieutenant Colonel Coombes (letter, June 6) need wait in eager anticipation no longer. The Royal Air Force College Cranwell is well ahead of its sister establishments in acknowledging the potential of its female officer cadets.

In July 1995, I was the first RAF female cadet to win the Wilkinson Sword of Honour (report, August 1, 1995). I received the prize from Her Majesty the Queen at the college during its 75th anniversary celebrations.

Yours faithfully,
J. HAMILTON-WILKS,
c/o Royal Air Force College Cranwell,
Sleaford,
Lincolnshire NG34 8HB,
June 15.

Bloomsday revived

From Dr George Gray

Sir, Your report (June 17) on the Dublin festival to celebrate James Joyce's *Ulysses* — the Bloomsday "carnival" — tells us that, in Seamus Heaney's view, James Joyce would have been disdainful had he been there.

In balancing her account of the day your reporter describes the first later-day Bloomsday celebration in 1954 initiated, among others, by Myles na Gopaleen (ie, Flann O'Brien, a writer enjoyed by Joyce).

She might have added that John Garvin, a senior civil servant and participant, called that outing a "pilgrimage", being part pilgrimage and part disgrace.

While eminent writers and critics might object, there is something to be said for the celebration of Bloomsday remaining consistent.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE GRAY,
19 Lakeside Grange,
Weybridge, Surrey KT13 9ZE,
June 17.

And the losers?

From Professor Alec Eden

Sir, I was saddened to read today that Ola, the chimpanzee who beat a team of international stockbrokers in a share-tipping contest in Sweden, has been found "downcast" in a 12ft cage in Thailand.

Your report omits to say what happened to the stockbrokers.

Yours faithfully,
ALEC EDEN,
The Thatched House,
Mead Road, Torquay TQ2 6TF,
June 18.

Coining it?

From Mr N. Horton

Sir, Will the dividends from the privatised Royal Mint (letters, June 13) depend on the amount of money they make?

Yours faithfully,
N. HORTON,
Richmond House,
Durford Hill, Warnham,
West Sussex RH12 3SA,
June 13.

OBITUARIES

VICE-ADMIRAL SIR FITZROY TALBOT

Vice-Admiral Sir Fitzroy Talbot, KBE, CB, DSO and Bar, C-in-C South Atlantic and South America, 1963-65, and C-in-C Plymouth, 1965-67, died on June 16 aged 88. He was born on October 22, 1909.

Throughout his life a keen horseman — his mother was named after a Derby winner, Blair Athol — the young Fitzroy Talbot originally wanted to be a cavalryman. But at the age of twelve his tentative suggestion about joining Sandhurst and a cavalry regiment was frostily received by the paternal side of a family studded with naval connections. Nevertheless, his subsequent career was not short of dash, style and gallantry, including the award of a DSO when still a lieutenant, two sinkings and several spirited wartime commands.

The China station gave him the opportunity for riding and, in Hong Kong, polo on small tough Chinese ponies. While undergoing pilot training at Leuchars in Fifeshire, his aspiration to become a naval aviator was brought to an end by a mid-air collision which he was lucky to survive and which left him with a permanently damaged ankle. Returning to the Royal Oak before transferring to the C-in-C's dispatch vessel *Boynon* in 1935. There he was told: "This is a somewhat unusual appointment, Talbot — you are in charge of the stables. Make sure that the senior officers get the right pony and right length of polo stick and you will be all right."

His reward was command of the minesweeper *Stoke* at the early age of 26 and subsequently second-in-command of the crack destroyer *Imperial*. At the outbreak of war he was placed in command of a group of anti-submarine trawlers. After some fruitless patrolling in home waters, Talbot was sent to support the evacuation of Allied troops from the unsuccessful Norwegian campaign. After he had rescued many while under severe air attack, his ship was eventually dive-bombed and sank in shallow water. Although quite badly wounded in the arm, Talbot supervised the destruction of codebooks and the landing of weapons so that his men could join the operations ashore. They were finally evacuated in the cruiser *Glasgow* with King Haakon,

Crown Prince Olaf and gold bullion from Oslo. He was awarded his first DSO for his gallantry and resource in this campaign. Having recovered from his wound, Talbot was given command of the 3rd Motor Gun Boat Flotilla, 12 powerfully-armed craft originally built for the French navy and based in the West Country. With crews from several Allied nations, Talbot took part in many high-speed night battles against German convoys and E-boats off the French coast. During the winter "off-season" in 1940, in a peculiarly absurd incident, he was adversely criticised by one admiral for being absent from his ship by reason of the orders of another. The explanatory letter to the Admiralty was lost in the bombing of Paddington railway station. This was not known and, under a cloud, Talbot was not appointed to command the destroyer for which he was thoroughly qualified, but sent instead to the cruiser *Edinburgh* as a supernumary.

Edinburgh saw plenty of action. Besides escorting convoys to Iceland and Cape Town, she took part in two vital and hard-fought convoys to Malta: Operations Substance and Halberd. Talbot's qualities were soon recognised: he was appointed first lieutenant by his captain who also corrected the Admiralty's original misunderstanding about him. In May 1942, while escorting convoys to North Russia in appalling conditions of cold and atrocious weather without air cover, *Edinburgh* was torpedoed by a U-boat and immobilised. Desperate measures to tow her to Murmansk failed; an attack by German destroyers supplied the coup de grace and, although most of the crew were rescued, *Edinburgh* sank with a large quantity of Russian gold aboard. After an adventurous journey home, Talbot was immediately appointed to command the destroyer *Whitshed* and, when in command of a destroyer group, earned his second DSO for sinking a formidable German raider and part of its escort in a fierce night action in the Channel. From August 1943 and throughout 1944, Talbot commanded the new destroyer *Teazer* in the Mediterranean, harassing Axis operations in the Aegean and supporting the invasion of the south of France. His war ended with him as second-in-command of the celebrated training school for antisubmarine escorts at Tobernory under the redoubtable Vice-Admiral "Monkey" Stevenson. A series of interesting tours at home and in the Far East were rewarded by promotion to captain in 1950 and appointment as Naval Attaché to Moscow and Helsinki. Here he encountered the full range of bizarre diplomatic and surveillance experiences typical of that stage of the Cold War. As captain of a destroyer squadron he took part in the Franco-British Suez adventure in 1956. Promoted rear-admiral — as he put it himself, "with no staff



Talbot: promoted to Vice-Admiral in 1962

Jeanette Nolan, film and radio actress, died on June 5 aged 86. She was born in Los Angeles on December 30, 1911.

IN A long career as a successful character actress who could turn her talents and skill with accents to almost anything, Jeanette Nolan had only one starring role and that was little more than a strange interlude. Had the film been anything other than Orson Welles's curious shoe-string *Macbeth* of 1948, it would not have received so much unfavourable notice, nor, to be fair, would Nolan, his Lady Macbeth, have achieved the fame she did. This fame, being mostly closer to notoriety, did her little good, but it did not really do her much harm either. The Welles film was so evidently a one-off, unlike anything else that had been made in Hollywood, that in the great scheme of things it was largely ineffectual and, having made her film debut in it, Nolan went on without difficulty to a busy career in films and, later, in television. She never starred again, but then, that is probably the sort of career she would have had anyway, even if *Macbeth* had never existed. The basic trouble with *Macbeth* was its tempestuous devisor and the eccentricity of his original concept. Major studios fought shy of him as a film-maker, despite his saleability as a star. But the small Republic studio had its moments of



Jeanette Nolan as Lady Macbeth in the famous Orson Welles film version of the play, 1948

kudos-seeking, especially if it could be done cheaply, and Welles offered them a likely project. Welles's idea was to make a sort of filmed repertory production of the play, on left-over sets and with largely unknown actors, mostly recruited from Welles's own training ground, radio drama. Nolan was already a very

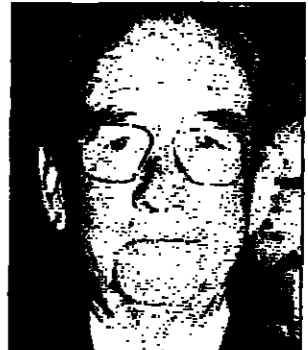
experienced radio actress, with a string of credits going back to 1932, the most famous being the radio *March of Time*, presented by her actor-husband John McIntyre, whom she married in 1935. This was notable especially for the fact that she was the only woman in the regular cast, playing all the female roles in a wide variety of accents, herself. Part of Welles's idea for *Macbeth* was that the whole cast should assume Scottish accents. What kind of Scots was not specified, and in any case the ability of the individual members of the cast to do their director's bidding was extremely variable. Hence, when the film previewed no one could understand it, and it was immediately redubbed (by the original players) in more comprehensible, if still peculiar, accents. In fact, as can be judged from the restored, integral version with the original soundtrack, which has now been put out on video, Nolan acquitted herself as well as anybody, and better than most. If, as Lady Macbeth, she was short on charisma, that, too, was part of Welles's intention: it was all supposed to be like a workshop production, with himself as Macbeth merely *primus inter pares*. This accorded well with Nolan's previous experience. Though literally and metaphorically a child of Hollywood, educated at Lincoln High and Los Angeles Junior College, then in drama school in Pasadena, where allegedly she first met Welles, all her career had been in radio. There all the performers verged on anonymity, and the show was the important thing, the players expendable. After Welles, Nolan found regular work, mostly in grade-A films, playing somebody's wife or mother; in several she appeared with her husband, a similarly busy jack of all acting trades. In the main she was associated particularly with Westerns, playing in two by the grand master himself, John Ford: *Two Rode Together* and *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, as well as in Robert Wise's *Tribute to a Bad Man* with James Cagney, and many episodes of the long-running television series *Laredo* and *Gunslinger*. This was not the only string to her bow, however. She also appeared in musicals such as *Words and Music* and semi-musicals like Pat Boone's *April Love*, weepies such as Margaret Sullivan's last film *No Sad Songs for Me* and tough thrillers, making a particularly memorable appearance in Fritz Lang's classic, *The Big Heat*, where in the opening scenes she appears as a sort of more successful Lady Macbeth, the ruthless wife of a corrupt policeman who sees his suicide as a way to her own advancement. In the later 1970s she found a new career for herself providing the voices for feature cartoon characters — in which capacity she worked on two Disney films, *The Rescuers* and *The Fox and the Hound*. John McIntyre died in 1991, but Nolan continued to work almost until her own death. Her last performance was as Robert Redford's mother in *The Horse Whisperer*, made earlier this year and yet to be released in Britain. Jeanette Nolan's only son also predeceased her.

GEORGE RIDDELL

George Low Riddell, OBE, printer, died on June 2 aged 90. He was born on December 27, 1907.

IN THE first quarter of this century, packaging was not recognised as a distinct manufacturing need, and the printing and paper industries were craft dominated. In 1929 George Riddell gave a lecture on "The application of science to printing". The outcome was that the following year the Printing Industry Research Association (PIRA) was registered as a company, with Riddell as its first director. George Low Riddell's dedication to the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers was bred in the bone. His father was an active member of the company, and the boy was educated at the Stationers' School in Hornsey. At 15 he was apprenticed to Alfred Langley of the Euston Press. He took a BSc and a PhD at Battersea Polytechnic. London County Council awarded him a travelling fellowship to visit America and Western Europe to study printing techniques. On his return he was asked to report to *The Times*, the *News of the World* and *Newnes* and Pearson on the current state of the art of printing. At PIRA (and for part of its period as the Printing and Allied Trades Research Association), he began to develop printing from a craft into a technology, attracting government funds for scientific research. The work included investigations into the opacity, colour, mechanical properties, oil penetration and surface behaviour of paper, the viscosity and tack behaviour of printing ink. Other studies made a major contribution to the growth of lithography as a commercial printing process and the demise of letterpress printing. On May 10, 1941, in the last great incendiary raid on the City of London, the association's premises were destroyed, and after the war purpose-designed laboratories were built in Leatherhead. A start was made on permeability studies in relation to packaging, and Riddell also began studying the infection and damage of packages by insects and moulds. From 1931 to 1957 he served as honorary secretary of the

Stationers' Company livery committee, and was appointed livery representative on the Court in 1958. He was called into Court in 1964, and in 1972 he was elected Master of the Company. In 1985 the Stationers' Company acknowledged his service by presenting him with its silver medal. He was a founder member of the Institute of Printing in 1961, subsequently becoming the chairman of its council. He served on the council of the Royal Society of Chemistry from 1946 to 1949, and was an officer of the Society of Chemical Industry. Naturally he was a founder member of the Institute of Packaging, later becoming vice-president, and of the International Association of Research Institutes for the Graphic Arts Industry. In the late 1950s the Reed Paper Group invited Riddell to set up its packaging research division, and he spent



nine years there applying his accumulated knowledge to industrial management of research and development. But when the Printing Industry Research Association merged with the British Paper and Board Industry Research Association, reverting to the name PIRA, in 1967, Riddell returned to Leatherhead. Riddell emphasised the need for international co-operation, and through his travels he developed a network of printing and packaging research institutes worldwide. He was awarded the paper trade's gold medal in 1972 and in the New Year's Honours List of the same year he was appointed OBE. He married Joyce Brookes in 1949, but she died in 1995. He is survived by his only son.

We regret that the above photograph inadvertently appeared accompanying another obituary yesterday.

JEANETTE NOLAN

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ANNOUNCEMENTS
Part of Welles's idea for *Macbeth* was that the whole cast should assume Scottish accents. What kind of Scots was not specified, and in any case the ability of the individual members of the cast to do their director's bidding was extremely variable. Hence, when the film previewed no one could understand it, and it was immediately redubbed (by the original players) in more comprehensible, if still peculiar, accents. In fact, as can be judged from the restored, integral version with the original soundtrack, which has now been put out on video, Nolan acquitted herself as well as anybody, and better than most. If, as Lady Macbeth, she was short on charisma, that, too, was part of Welles's intention: it was all supposed to be like a workshop production, with himself as Macbeth merely *primus inter pares*. This accorded well with Nolan's previous experience. Though literally and metaphorically a child of Hollywood, educated at Lincoln High and Los Angeles Junior College, then in drama school in Pasadena, where allegedly she first met Welles, all her career had been in radio. There all the performers verged on anonymity, and the show was the important thing, the players expendable. After Welles, Nolan found regular work, mostly in grade-A films, playing somebody's wife or mother; in several she appeared with her husband, a similarly busy jack of all acting trades. In the main she was associated particularly with Westerns, playing in two by the grand master himself, John Ford: *Two Rode Together* and *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, as well as in Robert Wise's *Tribute to a Bad Man* with James Cagney, and many episodes of the long-running television series *Laredo* and *Gunslinger*. This was not the only string to her bow, however. She also appeared in musicals such as *Words and Music* and semi-musicals like Pat Boone's *April Love*, weepies such as Margaret Sullivan's last film *No Sad Songs for Me* and tough thrillers, making a particularly memorable appearance in Fritz Lang's classic, *The Big Heat*, where in the opening scenes she appears as a sort of more successful Lady Macbeth, the ruthless wife of a corrupt policeman who sees his suicide as a way to her own advancement. In the later 1970s she found a new career for herself providing the voices for feature cartoon characters — in which capacity she worked on two Disney films, *The Rescuers* and *The Fox and the Hound*. John McIntyre died in 1991, but Nolan continued to work almost until her own death. Her last performance was as Robert Redford's mother in *The Horse Whisperer*, made earlier this year and yet to be released in Britain. Jeanette Nolan's only son also predeceased her.

THE MASSACRE AT HANGO

H.M.S. COSSACK, OFF CRONSTADT 7th — At 2 p.m. the Porcupine arrived with the *Teazer* and a collier in tow; at 3 p.m. the Mercator parted company; at 7.30 p.m. the Lightning joined the fleet from Nargen, bringing despatches for Admiral Dundas from the *Cossack* cruising off Hango-head. She brings also news of a most melancholy and atrocious outrage committed by some Russian troops upon a boat which endeavoured to land under a flag of truce, with the charitable intention of setting 10 prisoners at liberty. How this kindness was received will be seen by the following narrative: The *Cossack*, 20, Capt. E.G. Fanshawe, was cruising off Hango-head on the 6th of June, and being ordered to land 10 Russians she had on board, who had been taken from the woodboats the Merfin and herself had captured and burnt, she attempted to do so by sending them in a boat carrying a flag of truce. In that boat was the crew of nine men, Lieutenant Genest, in command, Mr. R. Easton, the surgeon, Mr. Sullivan, master's assistant, two stewards who went in hopes of buying some provisions, and the 10 pris-

ON THIS DAY

June 19, 1855

An incident in the 1853-56 war with Russia. Although it was dominated by military events in the Crimean the Navy played a crucial role in the campaign in the Baltic.

oners. On nearing the shore they found about 500 or 600 soldiers on the beach, and as the boat ran alongside a jetty the three officers jumped upon it from her, when the officer in command of the soldiers called out in English, "that he would have nothing to do with the damned flag of truce," and immediately ordered his men to fire. Mr. Genest, Mr. Easton, and Mr. Sullivan, fell at the first volley. One of the prisoners then held up the flag, which Mr. Genest had when he fell, but he was instantly shot; some of the men then jumped ashore to assist the others, but only to meet the same fate, for volley after volley was

mercilessly poured upon them and the boat, until it was supposed all were killed, when the Russians came down and robbed them of every thing worth taking away. The *Cossack*, after waiting some time for the boat, sent another in search of it, which picked it up a short distance from the land, with one poor fellow in it struggling with one arm to scull the boat, while the other dangled at his side with three bullets in it. When wounded he had fallen to the bottom of the boat, and as the water came in through the shot holes it revived him, and finding himself alone among his dead comrades, he, with almost superhuman effort, managed to get the boat to sea, until he was picked up. In the same boat were four of his dead messmates. This deliberate massacre, for no attempt was made to take them prisoners, and both friends and enemies were killed indiscriminately, will never be forgotten should we have an opportunity of taking vengeance for the murders. Neither men or officers were armed, through some mistakes were in the boat. At 7.30 p.m. the Arrogant parted company, to blockade the town and port of Viborg. 8th — 4.40 p.m.: The *Pylades* parted company to relieve the *Cossack*, who is ordered to join the Admiral for a court of inquiry.

NEWS

Opera house needs £15m subsidy

A secret letter from the board of the Royal Opera House to Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, threatens that Covent Garden may be closed for ever unless the Government gives it an extra annual subsidy of up to £15 million.

Public inquiry into 29 deaths

Frank Dobson announced a public inquiry into the deaths of 29 children who had heart surgery at Bristol Royal Infirmary as three doctors who treated the children were found guilty of serious professional misconduct.

Teenager elopes

A teenage schoolgirl tried to elope with an American more than twice her age after exchanging messages on the Internet.

Cup tickets stolen

Thieves broke into a tour operator's office in Paris and stole 15,000 World Cup tickets, including many for England and Scotland games already paid for by British fans.

Anger over wage

Unions and the Left criticised the Government after it fixed the national minimum wage at £3.60 an hour and at £3 an hour for younger workers.

Palace complains

Officials at St James's Palace have made their first formal complaint over what they regard as intrusion into Prince William's privacy at Eton after an article in The Mail on Sunday.

Suspects to appear

The High Court told the five "prime suspects" ordered before the Stephen Lawrence inquiry that they must give evidence into matters arising from the teenager's murder.

Woodward's verdict

Louise Woodward delivered a scathing attack on the American judicial system after a tearful reunion with her family, insisting that she was a victim of a miscarriage of justice.

Smart set bets on clear skies

The most uncertain bet any racegoer had to place on Ladies' Day at Royal Ascot was on the weather. Was it winter? Was it summer? Would it rain or merely drizzle? Viscountess Linley, injecting much-needed glamour into the royal carriage procession, put her money on clear skies: she wore a purple cloche hat of straw mesh that came low over her face.

Hague's judo stance

William Hague plans to spend the first anniversary of his election as Tory leader "quietly working". The judo student is waiting for his Labour opponent to lose balance before striking.

Cancer survival rises

The survival rate from cancer in Britain rose from 25 per cent to 30 per cent over the 1980s but that compares poorly with the US, where 40 per cent of patients live longer than five years.

Serbs protest

Serb mothers and daughters staged an anti-war protest in Belgrade, demanding that their sons and brothers be withdrawn from the fighting in Kosovo.

Tit-for-tat in Cyprus

Tension in Cyprus rose as Turkey sent F16 jets to the disputed island in response to the dispatch of four F16s and C130s by Athens to an airbase in the south.

Israel issues threat

Israel declared that the peace process would collapse if Arab states sought to upgrade the status of the PLO mission at the UN to that of a near-state.

UN job for Holbrooke

Richard Holbrooke, the maverick negotiator of Bosnia's peace deal, has been nominated by the White House as US Ambassador to the UN, against the wishes of Madeleine Albright.



A South African football fan sings her heart out before the match against Denmark at the Stadium Municipal in Toulouse. Page 53

BUSINESS

Pound rises: Strong economic data lifted the pound to a seven-week high as the City speculated that interest rates may be raised once again.

Cliveden takeover: Bill Gates, the billionaire founder of Microsoft, has emerged as part of an American consortium making an agreed £44 million bid for Cliveden, the luxury hotels group.

Goldman sued: Goldman Sachs is being sued for \$40 million after failing to point out a profits shortfall in a client bought by Reichhold, the US chemicals firm.

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 20.6 points to 5812.1. The pound rose 1.52 cents to \$1.6739 and 2.57 pence to DM2.9959. The trade-weighted index rose to 106.7.

SPORT

Cricket: South Africa recovered to 135 for four at the end of a rain-interrupted first day of the second Test after Dominick Cork had made an early breakthrough.

World Cup: Three players were controversially sent off by the Colombian referee in the 1-1 draw between Denmark and South Africa in group C.

Tennis: Anna Kournikova shed tears of joy after defeating Sieff Graf for the first time in her career, 6-7, 6-3, 6-4, in the Direct Line championship.

Racing: The Gold Cup, the showpiece of Ladies' Day at Royal Ascot, was won by Kayf Tara at 11-1. Double Trigger (25-1) was second by a neck, with Three Cheers (10-1) third.

ARTS

Making it up: Boosted by television shows and the growth of alternative comedy, improvisation is coming of age. What can it offer that straight theatre can't?

Hot Scottish air: As five architects compete for the £50 million Scottish assembly commission, Marcus Binney reports on the furious row it has already provoked.

Pop 1: Caitlin Moran was disappointed by the first solo album from Neil Finn, the songwriting genius behind the sublime Crowded House - until she heard it live.

Pop 2: Record labels are closing and sales are flat. So is this the end of the pop music industry? Probably not, says David Sinclair. Plus the new albums reviewed. Page 39

FEATURES

Girly-burly: Jane Shilling takes a moment to consider the principles of sparkle in all its girly guises.

Fests of the cheats: Britons might blush to recall their student cribbing exploits, but in Spain, cheating has been made the subject of a public exhibition.

American hurray: How American universities offer student visitors a great way to look and learn.

Raymond Snoddy: The communications revolution is spreading to the Arab world, with many of the same problems as in the West, but also with unpredictable consequences for freedom of expression.

Money watch: Few financial journalists realise that public relations agencies keep tabs on them and their private lives and even draw up personal psychological profiles that are forwarded to corporate clients.

The media leaders of London need to remember that if they use Louise Woodward's story to gain a competitive edge over their rivals, they will be making money from the death of a helpless baby boy.



Jane MacQuitty lists her best summer wines for under £5

TOMORROW

IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

TOP 100 WINES Jane MacQuitty lists her best summer wines for under £5

ANNE ROBINSON My dinner with the world's sexiest woman

TV AND RADIO

Preview: A film to mark the 50th anniversary of the Malayan Emergency (Malaya: The Undeclared War, BBC2, 6.45pm) Review: Paul Hoggart on a night of medical overload, from Bramwell to Let Them Eat Crisps. Pages 54, 55

OPINION

Unhappy anniversary Mr Hague cannot allow himself to be held hostage by a narrow clique whose idea of conservatism is that nothing should ever happen for the first time.

Home truths Miss Woodward is entitled to maintain her innocence. But her claim that the process which convicted her also cheated her does not convince at all.

Bonfire of the Nineties Tom Wolfe's new novel has all the exuberance, acerbic observation and sense of chaos that made Bonfire compulsive.

COLUMNS

MATTHEW PARRIS Donald Dewar has soured. His manner is defensive and his fight meander-spirited. Yet this is the same chamber, the same Parliament - and he is in the same job. We speculate that something's wrong at home for Mr Dewar. Scotland is home.

DANIEL JOHNSON Why do we leave it to Marxists and Germans to celebrate and lament old England for us?

PHILIP HOWARD The story of our island race from the Battle of the Medway to the Falklands has been made by young men behaving badly. When they cannot have fun killing and pillaging foreigners, they enjoy kicking each other drunkenly. Long before Britannia was Cool, she was notoriously Cool and Canned.

OBITUARIES

Vice-Admiral Sir Fitzroy Talbot, former C-in-C Plymouth; Jeanette Nolan, actress; George Riddell, printer.

LETTERS

British business and the single currency; tribes who avoid 'civilisation'; monitoring surgeons; pensions for divorcees; Louise Woodward verdict; drugs in music industry; Ola the share-tipping chimp.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,822

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 29 indicating starting positions for the clues.

- ACROSS 1 Formal coat is dull at back (6). 5 Very warm long? Exactly the opposite! (3,5). 10 Mix in jug (4). 11 Gentle light that helps restore calm mood? (4,6). 12 Casually survey sound indicators of intellectual level? (8). 13 Real mess as husband is involved in motorway accident (8). 14 Is in charge of cutting early lead (4,5). 18 Lay to rest some uncertain terror (5). 19 About to take strike - successive poor scores unthinkable (5). 20 In school, always keep working (9). 24 On appeal, reverse obvious run out (8).

FLASHPOINT GRUB M A G N E T I C R U M B L E N C H I N B A A D H E R E D R O P I C K B E R E F H C E D E B E N E F I C I A L H S T O T B O T T L E B A N K C U T E L N L I K A I D E O G R A M N O T I N G S H A U T A O S E A D O S K Y P I L O T U S E I R I N G E V E N D I C K E N S I A N

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HOURS OF DARKNESS Sun rises: 4:43 am Sun sets: 9:21 pm Moon sets: 3:28 pm Moon rises: 2:08 am

New moon June 24 London 9:21 pm to 4:43 am Bristol 9:30 pm to 4:53 am Edinburgh 10:02 pm to 4:25 am Manchester 9:41 pm to 4:36 am Perthshire 9:36 pm to 5:12 am

FORECAST

General hot in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Northern England and southern Scotland will start cloudy, with sun later. Rain in Northern Scotland with sun in the afternoon. Tonight, most areas will have a clear evening.

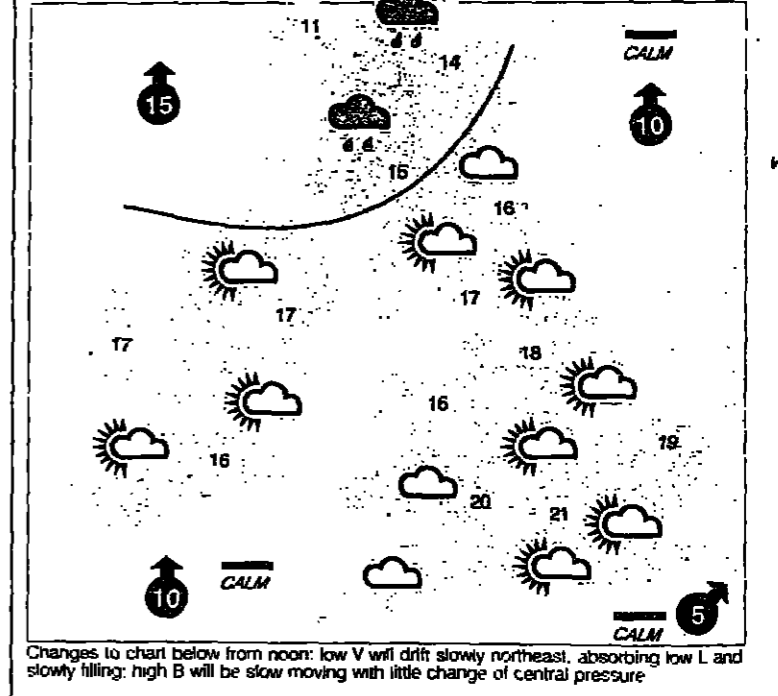
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday, including temperature, wind, and cloud cover for various locations like Aberdeen, London, and Manchester.

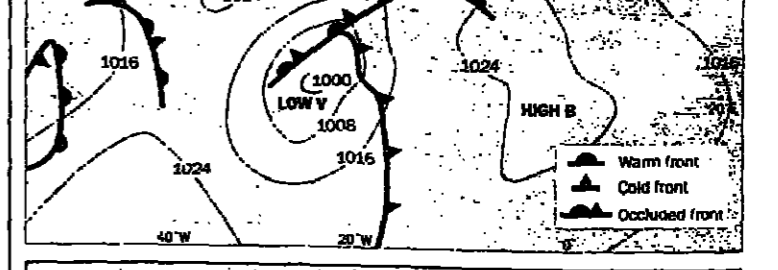
ABROAD

Table showing weather forecasts for various international locations including Cologne, Madrid, Mexico, and Tokyo.

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: low V will drift slowly northeast, absorbing low L and slowly filling; high B will be slow moving with little change of central pressure.



HIGH TIDES

Table showing high tide times for various locations including Liverpool, London Bridge, and Southampton.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Gurnsey, Channel Islands, 21C (70F); lowest day temp: Sella-Neck, Shetland, 10C (50F); highest rainfall: Capel Curig, Gwynedd, 1.0cm; highest sunshine: Trece, Isola d'Elbe, 14.5hr.

THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY JUNE 19 1998

Anger at diluted minimum wage

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

TRADE UNIONS last night launched a fierce attack on the Government for watering down its minimum wage proposals, claiming employers now had a green light to discriminate against young workers.

them as "workable" and expressing relief that workers under the age of 21 would receive a separate minimum wage rate.

The Government accepted the Low Pay Commission's unanimous recommendation for a £3.60 level for older workers but opted for a lower youth rate of £3 compared with the Commission's recommendation of £3.20.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, Uni-

son general secretary, said: "Young workers should not be singled out for second-class treatment... show me the supermarket which gives discounts to young people or the landlord who reduces the rent." Unison narrowly voted against strike action over the issue this week.

John Edmonds, leader of the GMB and president of the TUC, said: "It is a real slap in the face for all those young-

sters working in unskilled jobs in fast-food chains." Bill Morris, head of the T&G, added: "Such a rate is an endorsement of workplace poverty and a green light to the bad employer."

Union leaders accused the Government of undermining the idea of social partnership by ignoring the recommendations of the Commission, which included representatives from unions and

business. Roger Lyons, general secretary of the MSF, described the alteration of the commission's report as "dangerous meddling". Employer groups, however, repeated their opposition in principle to a minimum wage but said the proposals struck a sensible compromise and should not prove too inflationary.

Ruth Lea, policy director at the Institute of Directors, which has been strongly op-

posed to the minimum wage, said: "The Government's decision to dilute the Low Pay Commission's proposals for young people are sensible and should lessen the minimum wage obstacle to job creation."

Adair Turner, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, described the plans as a "reasonable and workable way forward". Jan Peters, deputy director general of the British Cham-

bers of Commerce, gave warning that smaller businesses may find the implementation of the proposals burdensome and it could discourage job creation.

The Federation of Private Businesses added that small companies in regions such as Wales and South West could find the level hard to sustain.

Unwanted jobs, page 16
Commentary, page 31

Pound leaps as City bets on new rise in loan rates

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE pound soared to its highest level for seven weeks yesterday as the City speculated that the Monetary Policy Committee will raise interest rates again next month.

Sterling was boosted by a larger than expected 1.7 per cent rise in retail sales volumes in May. That follows a

further rise in average earnings growth in March and a bigger than anticipated rise in retail price inflation reported earlier this week.

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, was hawkish during his confirmation hearing by the Treasury Select Committee yesterday. He said domestic demand had been running at about 4 per cent, well above any realistic estimate of sustainable, non-inflationary growth.

Domestic economic worries soon put an end to the euphoria on the stock market on Wednesday after America and Japan joined forces to support the yen. Yesterday the FTSE 100 index closed 20.6 points lower at 5,812.1.

The pound jumped to nearly DM3 on speculation of higher rates, putting renewed pressure on British exporters but, ironically, perhaps weakening the need for another monetary tightening next month.

When the MPC raised base rates to 7.50 per cent from 7.25 per cent on June 4, it cited faster average earnings growth and weaker sterling. Yesterday, the Office for National Statistics cautioned that May's retail sales had been boosted by good weather, which helped sales of clothing and footwear. Anecdotal evidence from retailers suggests June's wet weather has hit the high street hard.

Separate figures yesterday suggested that demand is slowing. M4 broad money supply's year-on-year growth rate fell to 9.1 per cent in May from 10.2 per cent in April, the lowest level since July 1996.

Commentary, page 31

Recovery continues in Asian markets

By JANET BUSH AND ROBERT WHYMAN

ASIAN markets continued to recover yesterday in reaction to Wednesday's support operation for the yen but news of the largest American trade deficit since January 1992 provided stark evidence of the impact of Asia's crisis on the rest of the world.

America's deficit jumped by 9.5 per cent in April to \$14.46 billion from \$13.21 billion in March as exports fell to their lowest level for more than a year. The US deficit with China jumped by nearly 14 per cent but, despite the weakness of the yen, its deficit with Japan fell by 6 per cent in the month.

Elsewhere, Australia's proximity to the Asian crisis was highlighted by an announcement by Fitch IBCA, the international rating agency, downgrading Australia's long-term currency rating to alert negative. More than 60 per cent of Australian exports go to Asia.

Stock markets in Hong Kong, Seoul, Manila and Bangkok all rose more than 5 per cent. In Tokyo, the Nikkei 225 index rose by 4.3 per cent amid hopes that Japan is committed to taking aggressive action to boost its economy and tackle bad loans in return for American support to stabilise the yen.



Stately sum: John Tham, left, and John Lewis will share £5.7 million from the sale of the group that owes its name to the Cliveden House Hotel

Bill Gates in £44m deal for Cliveden

By DOMINIC WALSH

BILL GATES, the multi-billionaire head of the Microsoft empire, emerged yesterday as part of a consortium of American investors that is buying Cliveden, the luxury hotel group, in a recommended £44 million deal.

Destination Europe USA, which is 10 per cent owned by Cascade, Mr Gates's personal investment vehicle, is to pay 95p a share, valuing Cliveden's issued share capital at £42.8 million. This rises to £44.1 million including share options.

The price represents a premium of 19.5 per cent to the share price on May 1 when the company confirmed a report in *The Times* that it was in takeover talks. However, it is at a discount to the 112p net asset value and below the 100p some analysts had been ex-

pecting. It is understood that Patriot American Hospitality, the US real estate investment trust, considered making an offer.

John Lewis and John Tham, respectively chairman and

managing director of the group, who between them own around six million shares, will share £5.7 million from the deal.

Cliveden, which was floated in 1996, also owns the Royal Crescent Hotel in Bath and a townhouse in London as well as the eponymous Berkshire stately pile.

Destination Europe is 65 per cent owned by LF Strategic Realty Investors, a real estate partnership linked to Lazard Frères, the New York investment bank. The other main investor is Lowe Enterprises, a Los Angeles property investment group. Mr Gates had no personal involvement in the acquisition but is known to have stayed at Cliveden.

Cliveden is just the latest in a growing list of luxury hotel assets to attract the attention of cash-rich US buyers.

The Savoy Group, Scotland's Turnberry Hotel and London's St Ermin's Hotel have all been snapped up in recent months and the likes of Thistle Hotels and Glenaeags may yet be added to the list.

Mr Tham, said the deal would allow Cliveden to step up its expansion plans. The agreement unveiled yesterday includes a number of financial penalty clauses in the event of the offer being trumped by another party.

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET MOVES	
FTSE 100	5812.1 (-20.8)
Yield	2.8%
FTSE All stars	2738.12 (-5.73)
Nikkei	15361.54 (+646.16)
New York	
Dow Jones	8825.97 (-3.49)
S&P Composite	1006.97 (-0.14)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.75% (5.75%)
Long Bond	105.70 (105.70)
Yield	5.70% (5.74%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month interbank	7.75% (7.75%)
Life savs gilt	
future (Sep)	108.58 (108.71)

STERLING	
New York	
\$	1.6690 (1.6690)
London	
\$	1.6747 (1.6690)
DM	2.9602 (2.9697)
FF	16.0440 (16.0578)
SP	2.5015 (2.4753)
Yen	229.95 (229.15)
£ index	106.7 (105.8)

DOLLAR	
London	
DM	1.7925 (1.7875)
FF	8.0120 (8.0225)
SP	1.0224 (1.0207)
Yen	137.58 (138.95)
\$ index	111.5 (111.8)

Tokyo close Yen 136.87

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Sep)	\$13.55 (\$13.70)

GOLD	
London close	\$293.55 (\$291.55)

* denotes midday trading price

Walls to step down at Albert Fisher

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

STEPHEN WALLS is to stand down as chairman of Albert Fisher, the troubled food company, it was announced yesterday.

Mr Walls, chairman since 1993, has presided over a sharp fall in the value of the company, with shares falling to a low of 24 1/2 p this month, against 79 p in 1994. He relinquished executive duties in early 1997, handing over to Neil England, chief executive. Mr Walls, 50, will receive no compensation. He was on a two-year contract that last year paid him £403,000.

An accountant and one-time aide to Robert Sangster, the racing tycoon, Mr Walls received a £1 million pay-off in 1989 when Plessey succumbed to a £1.7 billion takeover by GEC. He then moved to Wiggins Teape Appliance, the paper company, that merged with Arjomari-Prioux of France to create Arjo Wiggins Appliance. He left with a substantial payoff.

Commentary, page 31

Goldman sued over shortfall

By JASON NISSE

GOLDMAN SACHS, the investment bank planning a \$30 billion (£18.5 billion) flotation, has been accused of negligence for failing to tell a US chemical company of a profits shortfall in a business that Goldman was selling to it.

The US group, Reichhold Chemical, and its Norwegian subsidiary, are suing Goldman in London for \$40 million in damages plus costs over the deal, which took place last year. Reichhold agreed last July to pay

\$147 million for the polymer business of Jotun, a Scandinavian company advised by Goldman.

As part of the deal, Goldman gave Reichhold trading figures up to April 1997 and a budget for the whole of the year. But a report prepared more than a month before the deal went through, and discussed at Jotun's board meeting in June, showed that the polymer division had suffered a poor May and was predicting profits for 1997 some 40 per cent below the original budget. This document was not shown to Reich-

hold. The writ alleges that Henrik Flygar, a corporate financier at Goldman Sachs International in London, sent a copy of the first figures for January to April 1997 to Reichhold on July 7 and wrote that there had been no change in the financial position of the division since April.

Goldman refused to comment, but is understood to be arguing through its lawyers, Freshfields, that it would be the responsibility of its client to put right any loss incurred by Reichhold because this revised forecast was not disclosed.

First Choice to buy Unijet

By DOMINIC WALSH

THE wave of consolidation predicted in the wake of last year's Monopolies Commission investigation into the travel industry began in earnest yesterday as First Choice and Thomas Cook announced acquisitions of smaller rivals.

First Choice is buying Unijet and Hayes & Jarvis for a combined £134 million, while Thomas Cook is swallowing Flying Colours for about £50 million. First Choice is paying £110 million for Unijet and £24 million for Hayes & Jarvis, a long-haul operator. The deals will largely be funded by a 10 for 38 rights issue at

130p a share, raising £95 million. Chris Parker, Unijet's founder, controls more than 50 per cent of the company, indicating a payout of well over £50 million. Tom and Melba Correia are sole owners of Hayes & Jarvis.

First Choice announced reduced first-half losses of £17.8 million (£22.8 million). Losses per share were 5.8p (7.5p) and the interim dividend is 1p (0.9p).

The purchase of Flying Colours gives Thomas Cook's Sunworld subsidiary the Club 18-30 and Sunset holiday brands and the Flying Colours airline.

Tempus 32, City Diary 33

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Lloyd's of London to reassure names about future role

By JON ASHWORTH

LLOYD'S of London is expected to reassure names that they have a future in the insurance market, in the light of recent hostile comments by Ron Sandler, the Lloyd's chief executive.

Max Taylor, the Lloyd's chairman, will tell the annual meeting in London today that Lloyd's is committed to the annual venture — the mechanism that allows names to shift between insurance syndicates. Names, of whom there are now 6,825, compared with 34,000 a decade ago, will be free to continue underwriting.

Mr Taylor's remarks will inevitably be interpreted as a public rebuff for Mr Sandler, although Lloyd's yesterday denied that there was any rift between chairman and chief executive. Mr Sandler has publicly come out in favour of corporate capital as the way forward for Lloyd's — although he was at pains to emphasise that he was speaking in a personal capacity. Names

groups were quick to seize on his and subsequent remarks by market practitioners as "black propaganda" aimed at driving names out.

About 500 names have indicated that they will attend today's meeting in Westminster. In an attempt to defuse tensions, Mr Taylor will restate Lloyd's commitment to the annual venture and reject the idea that Lloyd's is destined to become a bourse of small insurance companies. He will reaffirm past council commitments to names co-existing with corporate capital — referred to colloquially in the market as "mixed bathing". Introduced in 1993, corporate capital now accounts for 60 per cent of Lloyd's £10.2 billion capacity.

The Lloyd's ruling council has been sharply divided on the issue of capital provision. The six nominated members, who effectively comprise the "swing vote" on the 19-strong

council, are said to have come round to the view that Mr Sandler has gone too far in pressing the case for corporate capital. Heated debate at the last council meeting lies behind today's public commitment in favour of names.

The Lloyd's council comprises five external names, two corporate capital representatives, six working members, including Mr Taylor, and six nominated members, of whom Mr Sandler is one.

Names at today's meeting are likely to express disquiet over recent developments. The Association of Lloyd's Members (ALM) has been an outspoken critic of Mr Sandler. Robert Hiscox, a former deputy chairman of Lloyd's, last week urged names to shift in favour of corporate capital, saying: "Lloyd's needs to be wholly corporate to compete in today's competitive environment."

Business letters, page 33

Limit set to hasten insurance transition

By JON ASHWORTH

LIMIT, the Lloyd's corporate capital group, is set to accelerate its transition to specialist insurance company, after unveiling a sharp rise in profits.

Acquisitions and organic growth will feature at Limit, which saw pre-tax profits rise to £189.3 million (£115.6 million) in the year to March 31. Operating earnings per share, which exclude investment gains, rose 21 per cent to 19.2p.

A final dividend of 5p a share makes a total of 13p (12p) for the year. This includes a special dividend of 7p a share paid in August — reflecting underwriting profits at the peak of the insurance cycle — and Limit regards the total basic dividend of 7p a share as the base against which future dividends will be measured.

Limit owns Bankside and Janson Green, two leading Lloyd's managing agencies, and supports 28 per cent of their underwriting. It expects to increase this proportion "substantially" for 1999.

Tempus, page 32



Spice on the menu: Rod Garland, finance director of WT Foods, left, and Keith Stott, chief executive, saw pre-tax profits for the year to March 31 of £3.7 million (£1.4 million). Turnover was £28.6 million (£24.2 million) and the final dividend stays at 1p, making 1.5p

Low profits set to be stripped

AS World Cup fever grips the nation, Robert H Lowe, the only football kit manufacturer whose strips are on the pitch in every match, has decided to throw in its sporting towel (Matthew Barbour writes).

Lowe, based in Congleton, Cheshire, which reported first-half profits up 10.3 per cent at

£1.83 million (£1.66 million), yesterday issued a profits warning for the full year, saying results would be hit by restructuring costs.

The company, which made the World Cup strips for all the referees and linesmen under licence from Adidas, has decided to withdraw from

sportswear manufacturing to concentrate on packaging.

David Sebire, chairman, blamed the decision on the strength of sterling and cheaper labour costs overseas.

Lowe's earnings per share fell 9 per cent to 1.11p. The interim dividend has risen 25 per cent to 0.156p.

Watchdog loses second director

By RICHARD MILES

THE Personal Investment Authority suffered severe embarrassment yesterday when a second director stepped down because of regulatory problems at his advisory firm.

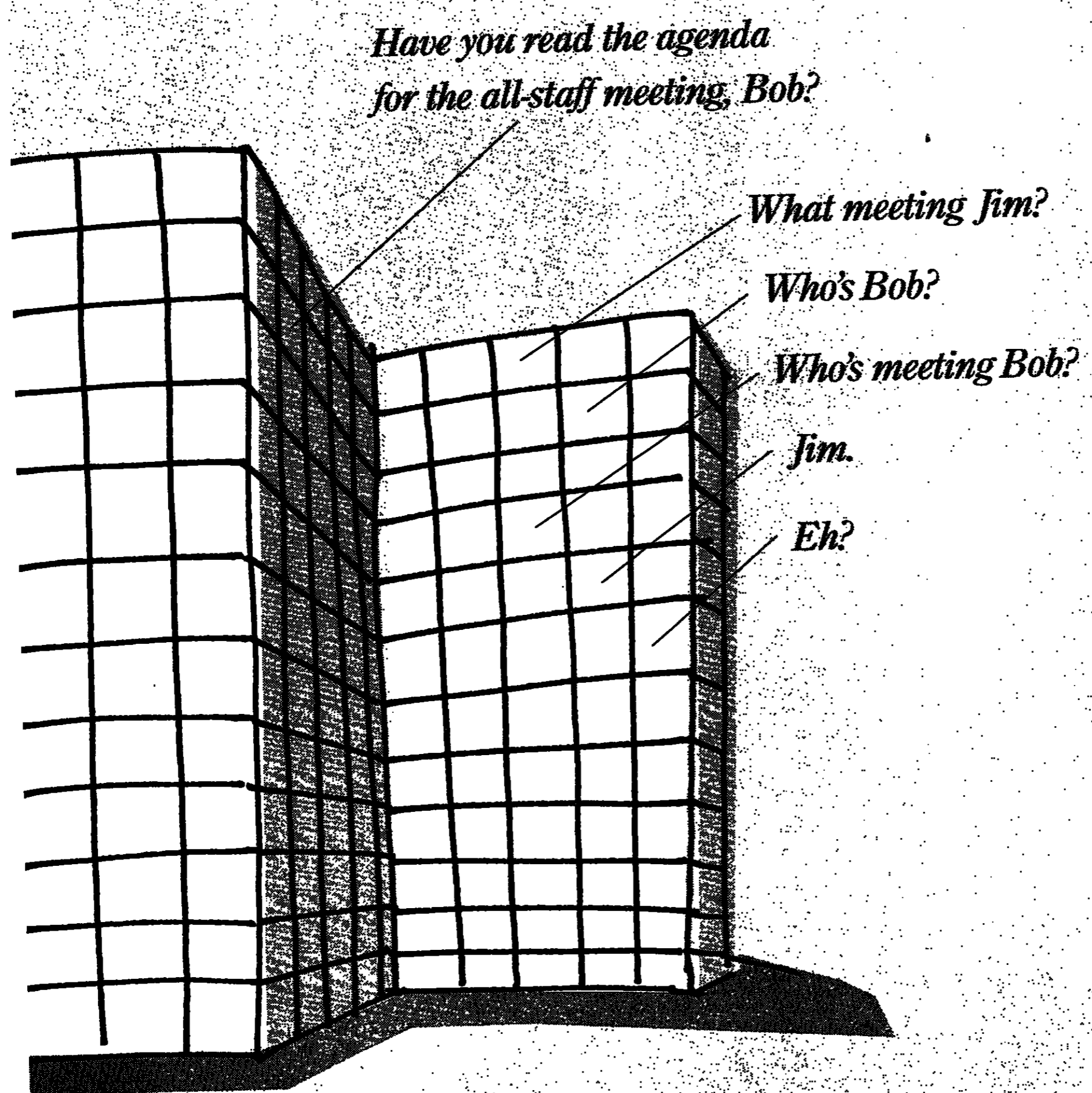
Bill Raynes offered his resignation to the financial watchdog's board after Raynes, Hodder, Davison & Co of Sheffield, where he is a director and controller, was suspended following an investigation by the regulator.

Last September, Ken Davy resigned as chief executive of DBS Financial Management, the publicly listed network of financial advisers. It was fined £425,000 for its tardiness in completing the review of mis-sold personal pensions.

The PIA said it suspended the authorisation of Mr Raynes's firm because most of its controllers may not be fit and proper, and because the firm could not comply generally with the authority's rules.

About half of firms suspended by the PIA never regain their authorisation.

Commentary, page 31



Have you read the agenda for the all-staff meeting, Bob?

What meeting Jim?

Who's Bob?

Who's meeting Bob?

Jim.

Eh?

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Profit growth lifts expanding Gerrard

SHARES of Gerrard Group rose 48.5p to 465p yesterday after the fund manager and stockbroker reported better-than-expected annual earnings and good progress in the integration of recent acquisitions. The company merged with King & Shaxson in a £54 million deal last October, bringing together the broking businesses of Gerrard Vivian Gray and Greig Middleton. The enlarged group now has about £12 billion of funds under management.

Pre-tax profits were £35.45 million for the year to March 31, against £17.7 million a year earlier. Adjusted earnings were 30.1p a share, up from 19.1p. The total dividend is lifted 6.3 per cent to 17p a share with a 9p final.

U-turn likely over MCI

KAREL VAN MIERT, the EU's competition commissioner, is expected to make a U-turn today and signal approval for the \$40 billion (£23.95 billion) WorldCom-MCI merger after weeks of sabre-rattling. The Commission's competition committee, which is meeting this morning, has dropped its demand that WorldCom sell its UUNET subsidiary in addition to the \$625 million sale of MCI Internet assets.

Six years for fraud

A FRAUDSTER was jailed for six years and banned from acting as a director for ten years for his part in a £23 million foreign exchange scam. Danniis Yiu Ming Cheung, 39, of Hampstead, North London, the managing director of Pagoda Group, was convicted at Southwark Crown Court on June 10 of fraudulent trading and seven counts of theft in a case brought by the Serious Fraud Office.

E&Y appoints auditors

ERNST & YOUNG, one of the so-called "big six" accounting firms, has taken the unusual step of appointing auditors. As a partnership, E&Y has no legal requirement to be audited, but would do so if it sought limited liability partnership status whenever that becomes law. BDO Stoy Hayward won the tender against competitors Clark Whitehill, Robson Rhodes and Pannell Kerr Foster.

Energy chief's £470,000

BRITISH ENERGY last year paid Bob Hawley, the nuclear generator's former chief executive, a £470,000 compensation package after his sudden exit last June. Dr Hawley quit the company after a showdown with the board over his aspirations to the chairman's job. In addition to the severance pay, Dr Hawley received £72,419 in salary and benefits for three months' work.

May car production up

CAR production in Britain rose 8.7 per cent in May, but output of commercial vehicles, considered to be an early indicator of business confidence, fell 2.9 per cent, suggesting that companies are beginning to cut back on investment in new vehicles. Car production for the home market was up 12.5 per cent over May 1997 and exports were up 5.9 per cent.

Lean time at Celebrated

CELEBRATED GROUP, the theme restaurant company that comprises Chili's Grill & Bar and Starvin' Marvins, reported a pre-tax loss of £2.96 million for the year to March 29, after a £2.1 million net charge against asset write-downs and losses on disposals. The operating loss from continuing operations was £755,000. The loss per share was 6.91p after charges. There is again no dividend.

Listing for HW Group

HW GROUP, the recruitment company, is planning a £42.5 million stock market flotation. The company is placing £18.6 million worth of shares on the market at 160p apiece, representing a 43.7 per cent stake. HW Group recently announced a 67 per cent rise in annual operating profits to £3.9 million. Dealing in the shares is expected to begin on Thursday.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Buys	Sells	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	2.84	2.87	2.84
Austria Sch	22.07	20.41	0.887
Belgium Fr	64.95	59.90	3.267
Canada \$	2.578	2.580	3.37
Cyprus Cyp	0.921	0.850	12.28
Denmark Kr	12.01	11.15	319.18
Egypt Pound	5.91	5.30	8.73
Finland Mk	9.56	8.91	265.88
France Fr	10.51	9.73	14.06
Germany Dm	3.16	2.92	2.66
Greece Dr	334	495	44.525
Hong Kong \$	12.89	12.79	1.781
Iceland	132	112	1.58
Ireland Pt	1.24	1.15	2.67
Israel Sh	6.53	5.67	2.67
Italy Lira	3127	2950	2.67
Japan Yen	244.51	244.51	2.67
Malta	0.887	0.887	0.887
Netherlands Gld	3.267	3.267	3.267
New Zealand \$	3.37	3.37	3.37
Norway Kr	13.28	13.28	13.28
Portugal Esc	205.48	205.48	205.48
S Africa Rd	8.73	8.73	8.73
Spain Ptas	166.37	166.37	166.37
Sweden Kr	14.06	14.06	14.06
Switzerland Fr	2.66	2.66	2.66
Turkey Lira	44.525	44.525	44.525
USA \$	1.781	1.781	1.781

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclay's Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Handwritten scribble or signature at the bottom of the page.

Minimum wage, minimum fuss

Tactical leaking dilutes reaction. This aqueous truism, an unwritten, but crucial component in this Government's code of conduct, has been demonstrated once again over the issue of the minimum wage. Surprises were there none in the details which emerged yesterday and the result was that both industry and the trade unions found it difficult to respond in tones of shock or horror.

Ironically, the most appalled reaction came earlier, when the recommendations of the Low Pay Commission landed on the desk of Chancellor Gordon Brown. He has fought, successfully, for lower pay limits for younger workers on the basis that this is necessary to safeguard his well-intentioned project to drag the nation's unemployed youth into gainful employment. But, given his obsession with keeping inflation at bay, he may also have been anxious to do what he could to water down the impact of a measure which is inherently inflationary.

However much the Chancellor may enjoy lecturing against fat catery and companies which ladle out even kitten-sized pay rises, he must know that, at the bottom end of the pay scale just as much as at the top, pay increases which are not matched by productivity increases do not help the economy, whatever they may do for social justice.

Margaret Beckett, the Presi-

dent of the Board of Trade, apparently fought vigorously for what she deemed social justice (more information to have come trickling in torrents from the leakers) but was over-ruled. She believed that the unanimous recommendations of the Low Pay Commission should be implemented in full, but every 20p counts and Gordon Brown can take the credit for saving stacks of them.

The result is a minimum wage which should certainly predispose employers in favour of taking on young unskilled workers rather than older ones. From next April, an 18 year old will come with a minimum price tag of £3 an hour, instead of the recommended £3.20, while anyone over 21 will cost £3.60. Over a 40-hour working week, that is a difference of £24, a sum large enough to influence many a recruiting decision. The losers may well be those at the far end of the age scale, retired people enjoying doing part-time work to bolster their pensions. Perhaps the Government should consider exempting them from the full rigours of the minimum wage.

But the level of the wage itself, thanks to the sensible efforts of George Bain, has been pitched at

a rate which will cause the majority of companies little concern. It will impose extra paperwork on those firms which do what the Chancellor would surely advocate and relate pay to productivity, and it will encourage restaurants to ensure that customers shell out an agreed service charge rather than surreptitiously slip a note into the waiting paw of a waiter.

For that, at least, we should be grateful.

Tell-tale sign in the shop window
The Office for National Statistics has produced new numbers to fuel the Chancellor's fear of rampant inflation. Retail sales in May were 4.6 per cent higher than a year earlier. A clear signal that consumers have run amok along the high street in a spend, spend mood which pro-

COMMENTARY by our City Editor

vides ample justification for the last increase in interest rates and the one still to come? The Chancellor and the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee may see it that way but that could only be if they insisted on viewing the statistics through a periscope which allows no glimpse of the real world. In January, growth was close to 7 per cent but retail sales have looked miserable ever since. February, March and April were a torrid time for the stores and the upturn that May brought has to be seen against that background. Dreadful weather in the spring stopped people splashing out and, so far, June has been worse than even the most pessimistic shopkeeper might have imagined. The plethora of "Sale" signs now decorating shop windows and advertisements for "Reductions of up to 70%" spell out the cruel truth.

The jolliest news to emerge from retailing is the appointment of one Cilla Snowball to the board of Arcadia. No matter what marketing expertise this doyenne of the advertising world brings, the name alone will brighten the annual report. Bringing advertising skills into the boardroom of a high street store operator is a shrewd move, although there is a limit to what any clothing retailer can do to overcome the effects of enemy weather. The creative approach is essential, however, when consumers are losing confidence and all the evidence is that this is now beginning to happen.

Despite the inflation fears of the Chancellor, the outpourings of statistics yesterday brought more evidence of a slowdown. Banks and building societies reported a fall in seasonally adjusted mortgage lending and the Building Societies Association announced the reasonable conclusion that house purchasers were becoming more cautious. A major estate agency

admitted that houses were staying on its books for rather longer than during the furious buying spree earlier this year. It may be too soon, however, to assume that estate agents might now do rather more to sell properties than just wait for buyers appear. That would be the sign that the recession really has arrived.

And the Walls came tumbling down

As it El Niño that finally carried him off? Stephen Walls has survived scallop blight and prawn pests, vicious, lettuce-biting slugs and killer seaweed. It seemed there was no ill wind or pestilence that did not target itself squarely at Mr Walls in order to give him more bad news with which to disappoint the shareholders in Albert Fisher. And disappoint them he most certainly did, as their shares fell and fell, against the market trend, and his own rewards continued to swell.

Last year he agreed to step backwards from his role as executive chairman to become simply non-executive chairman, yet

there was little expectation that this would be accompanied by a dramatic shrinking of his salary: last year a chunky £403,000.

Shareholders may have mocked his litany of excuses for poor performance, but he kept on churning them out. The last, in April, blamed a European ban on prawn imports and problems in setting up Uruguayan citrus farms and threw in El Niño as a catch-all for other failings.

It was always outside elements rather than management that were to blame. Perhaps this Teflon-like approach was imbued in his days running the Chesham Ponds African operations, where the main product was Vaseline. Shiny-haired and smiling, Walls has smoothly slid out of both Plessey and Arjo Wiggins, collecting payoffs on route. The slipperiness has allowed him to escape once more, but this time, without a bonus.

Biters bit

RED-FACED officials at the Personal Investment Authority defended the resignation of a second director, after compliance problems, as proof that it treats board members no differently from other members. Um, not quite. Regulation veterans will recall that PIA chairman Joe Palmer was chief of Legal & General during the personal pensions mis-selling scandal, and, coincidentally L&G was the first company to be publicly shamed by the Treasury.

Investors race to swap shares in Micro merger

By CHRIS AYRES

SHARES in Micro Focus fell 21 per cent when the New York market opened yesterday, after the UK software company unveiled a \$534 million (£323 million) acquisition of Intersolv, its US partner. City sources said shareholders were rushing to sell their holdings in Micro Focus and instead buying Intersolv stock to take advantage of the all-paper deal. For every share in Intersolv, priced at about \$17 (£10.20), shareholders will receive 2½ Micro Focus shares - valued at \$15.80 at their peak of \$5.75 yesterday. Micro Focus shares closed at 452½p in London, compared with a high of 718p earlier this year. Micro Focus said the merger would create a "superpower" in the enterprise software

market, and would almost double its size. The new company will have combined revenues of \$375 million, nearly 2,000 staff, a distribution network covering 40 countries, and more than \$125 million in cash. The combined value of the company - whose name is yet to be decided - is expected to be about £723 million.

Martin Waters, the president and chief executive of Micro Focus, said: "With the new millennium and the drive towards globalisation of IT through the Internet, our customers want a strategic partner that can help them to make effective use of new information technologies while leveraging their existing investment." Under the terms of the deal,

Mr Waters will remain in his present position, and Michael Gullard will remain chairman. The rest of the management team will be selected from Micro Focus and Intersolv executives.

Analysts said that Micro Focus, which is jointly listed in London and on Nasdaq in the US, had paid a "full price" for Intersolv, but that the two companies fitted together well. The new company will be based in Mountain View, California.

Some in the City questioned the way the deal had been structured by SBC Warburg, the advisers to Micro Soft, after the dramatic fall in the company's share price. One analyst said: "I would be interested to know their rea-

sons. It looks as though they should not have let this kind of gap appear, with the shares reacting as they did."

However, John Woolland, an executive director of Warburg, said: "It is a technical adjustment and I would expect it to correct itself. This is a pretty typical reaction: the UK market has reacted very positively to the deal."

Micro Focus specialises in producing software tools which help large corporations run modern applications on ageing IT systems. Intersolv specialises in quality controlling software, connecting applications to large databases and helping companies to overcome the millennium bug.

Tempus, page 32

Caledonia builds up £100m cash

CALEDONIA Investments, the trading and investment house controlled by the Cayzer family, has built up cash holdings of £100 million, representing more than 10 per cent of its assets (Richard Miles writes).

Almost half the cash came from a reduction of its stake in Close Brothers, the merchant bank, to 20 per cent. Peter Buckley, chairman and chief executive, said the money could be used for acquiring stakes in businesses with good management.

Profit in the year to March 31 fell to £41.1 million, down 17.5 per cent even allowing for an exceptional profit of £25.9 million last year on the reorganisation of a holding in Bristol Helicopters. Caledonia said profits were diluted by a £900,000 loss from its 28.2 per cent stake in Exco, the trade finance company.

Write-off drags down Lonrho to £28m loss

By ADAM JONES

LONRHO, the former conglomerate that is now solely a mining house, made a half-year loss of £28 million after writing off its investment in Hondo Oil & Gas, a US exploration company. It also cut the interim dividend from 9p to 7.2p a share after the demerger of Lonrho Africa and the sale of Lonrho Sugar.

Lonrho wrote off £69 million after Hondo's latest well at the Opon gasfield off the Colombian coast proved dry and pressure at two existing wells fell more than expected.

The provision dragged down profits from a pre-exceptional level of £39 million. Lonrho said a full provision was prudent, given that the company was a passive investor in the Hondo projects. The loss per share is 20.1p, compared with earnings of 1p in the 1997 interim.

Lonrho said net borrowings will fall from £445 million to £133 million when the sale of Princess Hotels, agreed last week, is completed.

There has been speculation that George Soros may be stalking Lonrho, but a spokesman said yesterday: "We have had no approach from George Soros." He added that second-half profits would benefit from the maiden contribution of South Africa's Tavistock Collieries and from Lonrho Platinum, where operating profits rose 190 per cent in the first half. Lonrho Africa will make up some of the dividend fall with a payment of 1p per share.

Byatt urges caution on £15bn plan

OFWAT, the water watchdog, challenged John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday to moderate spending plans that could cost the industry £15 billion over five years (Christine Buckley writes).

Ian Byatt, the regulator, said that Environment Agency plans to improve water quality were "too big" and their benefits were not yet proven. He is concerned the work due to be announced next month, will force up domestic water bills by between £46 and £65 a year.

Mr Byatt, speaking as he published Ofwat's annual report, said also that water company dividend payments were "unsustainably" high. The report showed a 10.5 per cent jump in customer complaints, to 11,123.



Sticky situation: David Dunn, left, with Derek Walter, finance director of Scapa

Scapa seeks Far East buys

By ADAM JONES

SCAPA, the industrial materials group, is hunting for bargains in the Far East to expand its tapes business. Scapa wants the business to become the third largest in the world, up from seventh position. Tapes are used widely in industries such as carmaking. Scapa bought the Sellotape

industrial tapes business for £46 million last year. David Dunn, chief executive, said the return on sales has already been raised from 7.6 per cent to 10.7 per cent.

Mr Dunn was announcing annual results which he admitted were a disappointment. In the year to March 31, Scapa earned pre-tax profits

of £60.8 million before exceptional gains, down from £66.5 million. Earnings per share were 8.5p, down from 19p. A final dividend of 5.59p will be paid, making 7.64p (7.2p) for the year.

Tempus, page 32
Taking stock, page 33

White Horse plans Ofex placement

White Horse Fast Ferries, the ferry company that will take tourists to the Millennium Dome, plans to raise up to £25 million via an offer of shares on Ofex, the junior stock market. The company, based in Swindon, was awarded two licences to operate services on the Thames - one from Greenwich to the Dome, the other between Westminster and Canary Wharf.

Talks ended

Sketchley, the dry cleaning company, yesterday said takeover talks with a suitor that had been wooing the company for the past six months have been aborted with no firm offer. However, the sale of its high street shops is imminent.

Vita acquisition

British Vita, the chemicals company, is buying Hyperlast, a supplier of high-performance polyurethane systems, for £34.6 million. Hyperlast, based in Derbyshire, earned pre-tax profits of £2.3 million in 1997 on turnover of £24 million.

Fidelity converts

Fidelity Investments is to go ahead with the £6.2 billion conversion of 20 unit trusts into an open-ended investment company (Oic), after the approval of 97 per cent of voting unitholders. The conversion will take place at the end of August.

Phonelink buys

Phonelink, the online information services company, announced two acquisitions worth £16.1 million. The company is buying GB Mailing, a supplier of address software products for direct marketing, for up to £11 million, and Seaforths, a business travel agency that makes use of electronic commerce, for a maximum of £5.1 million.

Jazz partner

Golden Rose Communications, owner of the London and North West Jazz FM radio licences, said it was looking for a strategic partner to fund growth. The company emphasised it was not for sale.

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UNITED AIRLINES

Wall St banks rake in record-beating profits

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

WALL STREET investment banks are breaking profit records halfway through the seventh year of the bull market. Morgan Stanley, the biggest US investment bank, increased earnings by 45 per cent and Lehman Brothers lifted profits by 168 per cent. Philip Purcell, Morgan's chairman, said: "We had a terrific quarter, particularly in our securities business." Pre-tax profits of \$854 million (£510 million) in the three months to May 31 exceeded analyst expectations by 15 per cent. The securities division contributed \$530 million, up

70 per cent. US investment banks are benefiting from continuing strong share and bond sales, and merger activity that brings in million-dollar fees without exposure to risk. Morgan's investment banking revenue increased 70 per cent to \$990 million and total revenues increased 31 per cent to \$4.6 billion. Trading volume figures, however, contain a warning that the boom may have peaked. Year-on-year volumes increased 15 per cent but quarter-on-quarter volume fell 8 per cent.

Lehman's profits were primarily driven up by fees for

arranging mergers. The bank increased earnings from \$121 million to \$324 million in the second quarter.

The profit rise may put an end to the continuing speculation that Lehman will be taken over by another bank with a wider range of financial services.

Richard Fuld, chairman, said the profit flow will continue and that merger and underwriting activity would reach a new record in the current quarter. Bond underwriting is especially strong because interest rates are at historic lows.

STOCK MARKET

FRASER NELSON

Tiger surprises City with large investment in Next

TIGER MANAGEMENT, the \$18 billion (£1 billion) US hedge fund advised by Baroness Thatcher, has emerged as the largest single shareholder in Next after taking a £63 million stake in the troubled retailer.

The fund, which normally specialises in bombed-out Asian stocks, has been building up a stake in Next and yesterday spent a further £4 million on Next shares to take its holding just above the 3 per cent disclosure level.

Dealers were at a loss to explain the move. Tiger has made its name as an aggressive investor with a strict rule that its investments must double in value within three years.

Shares of Next added 6 1/2 p to 527 1/2 p yesterday - still far from the 83 1/2 p it enjoyed before the March profit warning. It leaves the FTSE 100 on Monday.

Franklin Resources, the largest single shareholder in Nycomed Amersham, prompted a nasty bout of profit-taking yesterday after it mopped up £8 million of shares at a price rumoured to be way below the market value of 450p.

The shares tumbled 6.4 per cent to 421p yesterday, leading a 20.6 point downturn in the FTSE 100 index, which closed at 5,812.1.

Dealers said trading was bitty with many houses nervous ahead of today's quarterly expiry of FTSE index futures and options - an event which has become known as "double witching."

The last time these options expired, the FTSE 100 swung 255 points in minutes as dealers struggled to adjust their positions.

Amvescap led the FTSE fallers, down 21p to 611p on word that Goldman Sachs has placed 7.25 million shares at 615p apiece.

The City put an end to a bear run by Stagecoach, marking the transport company 6.15 per cent better at £13.80 after most of the heavy-weight profit-takers had been flushed out.

This led to a mini-rally in the transport sector with Railtrack up 4 1/2 p to £13.31, National Express up 1 1/2 p to £10.46, and Metroline 4 p better at 289 1/2 p.



Baroness Thatcher is an adviser to Tiger Management, the US hedge fund that has a £63 million stake in Next

Shares of Vocalis have been oscillating wildly for the last two months on hopes for the company's voice-recognition telephone system that has already been sold to Ericsson and Arglan Water.

Word is the firm has secured contracts with two more blue chip stocks, and that both will be announced soon. The shares closed up 5 1/2 p to 104p.

Hawthorn Whiting, up 7p to 83 1/2 p, is returning its results soon - and some dealers were stocking up in the hope of good news.

Word is the pre-tax loss will be far less severe than the £2.5 million being predicted by its broker. Reports of a link-up with Halfords are also doing the rounds.

An analysts' trip to Cadbury

Schwepcs could not prevent the confectionery company's shares sliding 2 1/2 p to 91 1/2 p yesterday.

Pilkington, which has just flown some analysts back from a trip to Italy, slid 4p to 120 1/2 p as Dresdener Kleinwort Benson, the broker, reinforced its sell recommendation.

The renewed strength of sterling took its toll of the exporters. FKI, off 8 1/2 p at 182p, TI Group down 3 1/2 p at 478p, and Fairry Group, off 40p at 346 1/2 p, suffered the most.

Sketchley dropped 4 1/2 p, or 11 per cent, after it said its takeover talks had ended - but added that talks to sell its dry cleaning and photographic arm are now "at an advanced stage".

Shares of Sema have risen to 45 per cent since January. As a result, the company has split its shares in four and adjusted the price to 69 1/2 p. They promptly jumped 4.5 per cent to 72 1/2 p, helping Logica up another 4 1/2 p to £19.12 1/2.

Celtic, the Scottish football club, may also change the curious pricing structure of its shares. Floated at 65p apiece on the Alternative Investment Market, they are now £245 each.

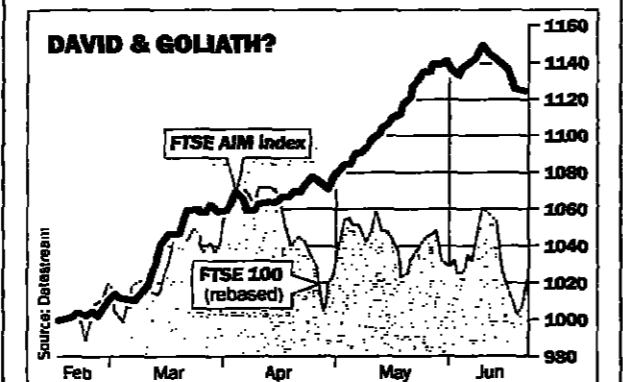
The club has appointed Nomura as its adviser and is now preparing to join the official list - where the highest-priced share is Perpetual, up 5p at £41.92 1/2 p. Analysts say Celtic shares could well be broken down to more manageable levels.

British Regional Air Lines, the short-haul carrier which runs most of British Airways' domestic flights, was awarded a 6 1/2 p premium on its stock market debut closing at 156 1/2 p. The shares touched 172 1/2 p at one point.

Shares in Anglo Siberian Oil also started trading on the AIM, winning a 6 1/2 p premium to its 100p placing price.

GILT-EDGED: The strong UK retail sales data was poorly received in the futures pit, fuelling fears of another interest rate rise. Treasury 13 per cent 2000 dropped 3/2 to 111 1/2. Longs fared better, and Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was 1 1/2 firmer at 125 1/2.

NEW YORK: Wall Street eased in early trading as investors lost confidence in efforts to halt the yen's slide. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 3.49 at 8,825.97.



THE Alternative Investment Market is celebrating its third birthday with a surprising little fact over the past four months, the FTSE AIM index has outperformed the FTSE 100 by 10 per cent.

But sadly, the FTSE AIM index is a poor indicator of the market's health, because it is dictated by a dozen of the largest stocks that make up a quarter of the market's £6.7 billion capitalisation.

An individual picture is more telling. Of the 242 stocks that were trading on AIM this time last year, only 104 have actually risen in value.

AIM was always intended to be a high-risk market to house the best performers in London as well as the ugliest dogs. True to form, it has delivered five of London's top ten performers in the past 12 months, and seven of the ten sharpest fallers.

So, a random selection of AIM stocks will still fare worse than a random selection of blue chips. But for the brave, the junior exchange is still the best place to find casino-like returns on investment.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 8825.97 (-13.49) S&P Composite 1106.97 (-0.14)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 13761.54 (+646.16) Hang Seng 8515.97 (+511.62)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 8515.97 (+511.62) Amsterdam: AEX Index 1161.09 (+13.78)

Sydney: All Ordinaries 2008.2 (+58.9) Frankfurt: DAX 5716.06 (+8.70)

Singapore: Straits Times 1133.41 (+25.71) Brussels: CAC-40 3028.70 (+62.22)

Paris: CAC-40 3028.70 (+62.22) Zurich: SMI 1998.30 (+9.70)

London: FT 30 3821.2 (-16.4) FTSE 100 5812.1 (-15.0)

FTSE 250 5959.2 (-24.7) FTSE 350 2813.7 (+0.4)

FTSE Europe 100 2807.17 (-20.16) FTSE All-Share 2796.12 (-17.7)

FTSE Non-Financials 2915.38 (-6.72) FTSE Fixed Interest 144.10 (-0.09)

FTSE Govt Secs 104.96 (+0.08) FTSE 100 Volume 106.7 (60.9)

Bank of England Official Close (Hpm) ECU 1.5127 US\$ 1.2435

RPI 161.3 May (4.2%) Jan 1987=100 RPIX 161.3 May (3.2%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

ATA Group 146p + 1 1/2 Anglo Siberian Oil 106p + 1

BTR Red PTF 35p - 1 British Regional Air 156p + 1

Capt OM Warrms 2 City Consumer 75p + 1

Compucenter 75p + 12 Dresdner RCM 99p + 1

Elderstreet Dwg VCT 95p + 1 GRE Red PTF 17p + 1

Game 220p + 1 Goldshield 235p + 4

Hamleys 5p + 1 INVESCO Intl Smr Cx 95p + 1

ITNET (NSO) 420p - 1 JSB Software Techs 226p + 1

JWE Telecom 141p + 1 James R Knowles 95p - 1 1/2

Multi Equip Rental 12p + 1 Pennine Dwg VCT 100p + 1

Northrop Rock 538p - 1 1/2 Northern Rock 538p - 1 1/2

Shred-Dag 515p + 1 Thomson Travel 183p + 9p

Tricorder Tech 101p + 1

RIGHTS ISSUES

Htdy Oil Gas n/p (225) 6 - 1/2 Old Eng Pcs n/p (330) 18 - 1

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES: Hutch Wharm 254p (+27p) First Choice 167p (+15p)

Orange 510p (+29p) Rio Tinto UK 710p (+25p)

GKN 820p (+19p) FALLS: Falry Gp 346p (-40p)

Di 470p (-40p) De La Rue 293p (-18p)

ROXAM 250p (-13p) Cox Inso 484p (-22p)

Regent Inns 338p (-14p) Rascal Elect 354p (-14p)

Northwick 515p (-15p) Norwich Union 427p (-10p)

TEMPUS Making the right Choice

THE transformation of First Choice since the dog days of 1995 has been nothing short of remarkable, and yesterday's brace of deals to bolster its long-haul operations were another big step in its rehabilitation.

It was First Choice for the 1995 price war by then that sparked the 1995 holiday and then having to flog them off cheaply. But with capacity back in line with demand and new management at the helm, the group has regained its standing in the City.

The latest buys give it market leadership in the higher-margin long-haul market. The price is not cheap but looks reasonable alongside the £50 million that Thomas Cook is rumoured to be paying for Flying Colours.

The integration of Unijet's airline into its own Air 2000 will produce the bulk of the predicted operating profits that grew by a quarter to £87.6 million.

Sharply higher gains on Limit's equity portfolio pushed total pre-tax profits to £189.3 million.

A combination of the strong stock market and the increased focus on new business given by investors their best year yet. The shares have risen from 130p in October to 225p yesterday, with a strong run since the start of May.

Limit is trading at 1.6 times book value, but looks cheap alongside Wellington Underwriting, which is on 3.6 times, and Cox Insurance, which is on a multiple of 5.3.

With the additional benefit of £465 million of capacity to sell, Limit still looks fair value.

Limit The London Insurance Market Investment Trust began life in November 1993 as a quasi-tracker fund for Lloyd's. The largest of the new corporate capital providers, Limit spread its underwriting across a great many insurance syndicates, hoping to ride the revival in profitability at Lloyd's.

The pace of change at Lloyd's and the increasing role of corporate capital has encouraged Limit to move towards becoming a more conventional insurance company. Having bought out the minority shareholders in Bankside and Janson Green, it is committing more of its capital to these two managing agencies, and reducing the support it gives outsiders.

Already last year, Bankside and Janson Green provided almost one-third of the £323 million acquisition of Intersolv by Micro Focus provoked a volatile market in the UK company's shares yesterday. The price initially leapt 55p to 575p, before falling back sharply to close at 452 1/2 p. The explanation seems to be some canny arbitrage by institutional investors. Micro Focus is offering 2 1/2 shares, worth a total of £15.80 at their peak yesterday, for every one share in Intersolv, which were worth \$14, or £3.43 before the deal was announced. By selling Micro Focus and buying into Intersolv, fund managers were able to take a quick profit.

All this should not detract from the attractions of the deal itself. Assuming an equilibrium price for Intersolv of about \$21.80 a share, Micro Focus is paying roughly 22 times forecast earnings for 1999. For the information technology sector, this is not too expensive.

Limit

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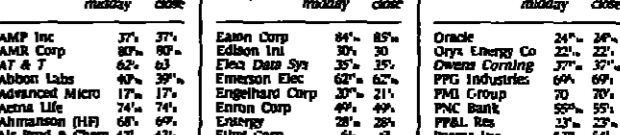
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Micro Focus The two companies have been partners for the past ten years and they have finally decided that they would be better off providing their range of services under one roof. Micro Focus produces software tools for building computer applications and Intersolv produces quality control software and sells products that connect databases to applications. Both, inevitably, are busy with the millennium bug.

At last night's closing price in London, Micro Focus is trading at 24 times forecast earnings. With little overlap between the two businesses, Micro Focus looks a solid medium-term buy.

Scapa DOUBLE-SIDED sticky tape has come a long way since Blue Peter made it a tea-time icon. Progress in building up its fast-growing activities, Scapa, on 10.6 times forecast earnings, will continue to look vulnerable to a bid.

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN



COMMODITIES

LIFEE Jul 104-1063 Sep 1178-1170

COCOA Jul 104-1063 Sep 1178-1170

ROBUSTA COFFEE (A) Jul 104-1063 Sep 1178-1170

WHITE SUGAR (FOB) Jul 104-1063 Sep 1178-1170

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Official (Volume per day) Jul 104-1063 Sep 1178-1170

LIFE OPTIONS

ASIA 100 104 26 32 29 13 13

EUROPE 100 104 26 32 29 13 13

US 100 104 26 32 29 13 13

UK 100 104 26 32 29 13 13

JP 100 104 26 32 29 13 13

AU 100 104 26 32 29 13 13

IN 100 104 26 32 29 13 13

BR 100 104 26 32 29 13 13

RU 100 104 26 32 29 13 13

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Long Gilt Previous open interest 1,735,238

German Govt Bond (Bund) Previous open interest 73,544

Five Year Gilt Previous open interest 85,477

Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest 100,228

Japanese Govt Bond (JGB) Previous open interest 94,530

Three Mth Sterling Previous open interest 90,430

Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest 225,974

Three Mth Euribor Previous open interest 100,000

Three Mth Euroswap Previous open interest 166,243

Three Mth Euro Previous open interest 12,861

FTSE 100 Previous open interest 19,595

Base Rates Clearing Banks 7 Finance Hse 8

Discount Market Leases 0-12 High 7 1/2

Treasury Bills (Dis/buy) 2 mth 7 1/2 3 mth 7 1/2 6 mth 7 1/2

Prime Bank Rates (Dis) 7 1/2 2 mth 7 1/2 3 mth 7 1/2 6 mth 7 1/2

Sterling Money Rates 7 1/2 7 1/2 7 1/2 7 1/2 7 1/2 7 1/2

DOLLAR RATES

Australia 1.6425-1.6430

Canada 1.5242-1.5257

France 6.8434-6.8435

Germany 1.7859-1.7864

Italy 1.4091-1.4111

Japan 179.50-179.80

Malaysia 3.9505-3.9500

Netherlands 2.0127-2.0137

Portugal 20.000-20.000

Spain 166.00-166.50

Sweden 8.972-8.972

Switzerland 1.4912-1.4922

Argentina peso 1.6750-1.6755

Bahrian dinar 0.6190-0.6190

Brazil real 1.9299-1.9326

Cyprus pound 0.8625-0.8615

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso 1.6750-1.6755

Australia dollar 1.5242-1.5257

Bahrian dinar 0.6190-0.6190

Brazil real 1.9299-1.9326

Cyprus pound 0.8625-0.8615

Denmark krone 13.46-13.46

France franc 6.8434-6.8435

Germany mark 1.7859-1.7864

Italy lira 1.4091-1.4111

Japan yen 179.50-179.80

Malaysia ringgit 3.9505-3.9500

Netherlands guilder 2.0127-2.0137

Portugal escudo 20.000-20.000

Spain peseta 166.00-166.50

Sweden krona 8.972-8.972

Switzerland franc 1.4912-1.4922

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Dollar 7 day 1 mth 3 mth 6 mth Call

French Franc 3 1/2 3 1/2 3 1/2 3 1/2 3 1/2

Swiss Franc 1 1/2 1 1/2 1 1/2 1 1/2 1 1/2

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Dollar CDs 7 1/2 7 1/2 7 1/2 7 1/2 7 1/2

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open \$293.90-294.30 Close \$293.30-293.80

Low \$291.00-291.40 AM: \$293.05 PM: \$292.45

Kruggerand

السنة من الأربعة

Blair's executive friendships may cool

THE BUSINESS OF POLITICS



ALASDAIR MURRAY

It would perhaps be a touch premature to claim that the Government's painstakingly constructed coalition with business is coming unstuck. We are still an awfully long way from the days when the leading business organisations would have no qualms about exhorting their members to vote Conservative while Labour effectively depicted Britain's private sector as the enemy. Many businessmen and women are only too happy to sip cocktails at No 10, join one of the Government's myriad task forces and wait for the honours list to reward their hard work.

If you listen carefully, however, there are some sounds of discontent emerging in the background. The British Chambers of Commerce annual conference, which took place earlier this week, provided a useful opportunity to take the temperature of business sentiment, revealing that feelings towards the Government are becoming distinctly lukewarm.

The BCC is a difficult organisation to gauge correctly. It is not as high profile as the Confederation of British Industry or the Institute of Directors, lacking the big industry names keen to inject a sense of drama into proceedings. Delegates are

unfailingly polite, content to use discussions to probe the platform speakers rather than push their own agenda. The BCC does, however, have one substantial advantage over the other umbrella business groups. It has a heavy concentration of small business representation and a bias towards the regions - most clearly shown in the way that delegates proudly display the names of their local chambers of commerce rather than their company.

BCC members are worried, not so much by the individual measures that the Government is taking, but by the sometimes unintended consequences of the general thrust of policy. A snap electronic poll found that 80 per cent of the 500 delegates felt that the last Budget had done little to help their businesses. There was little outright opposition to the raft of new employment legislation and the change in the tax regimes, but concern that small businesses will struggle under the sheer burden of new reporting and record keeping. This is not to say

that Britain's small companies want the Government to stick to a highly conservative programme. There were areas where the conference expressed disappointment because the Government had not yet proved radical enough for their tastes. The repeated delay of the Transport White Paper became a standard conference joke, with delegates worried that the latest postponement implied that the Government was inclined to water down its earlier proposals.

BCC members are quite clear that there has to be a radical overhaul of the transport system, including measures such as road pricing, which are unlikely to go down well with Tony Blair's middle

classes. They would like to see more powers devolved to the planned regional development agencies. The Government was also called upon to do more about education and training, although of the Government ministers who appeared before the conference, it was David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, who won the warmest applause for his passionate espousal of the need for vocational training. It was noticeable, however, that the most popular speaker at the conference was Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor. Mr Clarke, appearing on the same platform as the Governor of the Bank of England, revelled in the opportunity to revive the "Ken and Eddie show" and tell both

Mr George and the Government exactly where they were going wrong in economic policy. Witty, and in total command of his subject matter, Mr Clarke reminded his party exactly what it is missing on the front bench, making Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General who spoke on behalf of the Government, appear like a booted Gordon Brown clone.

Mr Clarke, of course, has the luxury these days of speaking for no one in particular but himself and he was distinctly stronger on what was going wrong than how the Bank and the Chancellor could have got it right. Yet, there is little doubt that he articulated the main worry of BCC members, which is the health of the economy.

It appears unlikely that the Government will escape censure for the coming economic downturn, despite the fears of the Chancellor's political opponents that by giving the Bank of England independence he would be able to shift the blame for the next recession. Sure, the Bank

came in for its fair share of specific criticism over its most recent rate rise, but there was a clear indication that Mr Brown had to take responsibility for failing to help the Bank in his Budgets. The BCC even issued a sharp rebuke to the Government for suggesting that the worrying increases in average earnings were the fault of business. People may well not be willing to offer the Government credit when it gets the economy right, but they are still clearly not going to forgive any mistakes.

For the Government the next few months could prove pivotal in its relationship with business. The volume of business criticism is likely to increase as more bad economic news is released. The temptation will be for the Government to become defensive, to blame everyone but itself. However, as the last Government proved, this just will not wash with the business sector. The Treasury and the DTI must be prepared to take some flak and keep listening to the worries of organisations such as the BCC. The alternative, to start dividing the world into them and us, will quickly reveal that even Mr Blair's closest business friends are only fair-weather.

Asian crisis fails to deter West from taking stock in China

Richard Miles reports on the search by investors for bargains and opportunities



Although China is thought to have engaged in currency games with the US, President Clinton's visit is being heavily promoted

When President Clinton visits China later this month, he should make time to do a little shopping: he might find himself in familiar company. Investors from the US and Europe are scouring the country for investment opportunities, with a view to both short and long-term gains.

Their search is twofold. In the first instance investors are looking for bargains, thrown up by the financial crisis that has swept through South-East Asia. In 1997 five of its leading markets lost 60 per cent of their value, and the consensus is particularly after this week's intervention by the US Federal Reserve to prop up the yen, is that the bottom of the market is close.

But foreigners are also looking for longer-term investments. Japan's problems are so entrenched that few in the investment community believe that it can hold on to its economic and political leadership in the region. China, the single biggest market in the world with a population of more than 1.2 billion, is the natural successor, given time to cement its social and economic reforms.

Christian Dangerfield, manager of the AIB Govett Greater China unit trust fund, said there were undoubtedly bargains in the region. "In the last couple of months, the Chinese markets, both on the mainland and in Hong Kong, have been hit hard by the fall in the yen. The stocks are now trading at a very attractive level," he said.

A number of funds have been launched over the past couple of months with a view to buying up not only undervalued stocks, but also the assets of Asian companies plunged into difficulty by the region's financial maelstrom.

In particular, foreign investors are targeting the Chinese subsidiaries of companies from Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia, the three countries that have sought help from the International Monetary Fund.

One such fund is the Navis Asia Fund, run by First Eastern Investment, the Hong Kong group with a long history of direct investment in mainland China, in partnership with a group of former executives of the Boston Consulting Group. They hope to raise \$200 million (£120 million) in private equity. Prudential Asia Investments, the Asian arm of the US insurance group, has already raised \$540.5 million for a similar fund.

Victor Chu, First Eastern Investment chairman and a leading Hong Kong lawyer, said there were some interesting opportunities in mainland China investments owned by Asian investors who need immediate liquidity because of their domestic problems. Only by drawing in their horns abroad can they concentrate on more pressing issues at home. "These are ripe for

picking off," he said. In partnership with a US firm, Mr Chu is also investigating a number of arbitrage opportunities in China. On the mainland markets of Shanghai and Shenzhen, there are two classes of share: the A-class which is limited to domestic investors, and the B-class which is open only to foreign investors. There also Red Chips, the subsidiaries of mainland companies registered in Hong

congregations must become tradeable at some point.

While these are immediate opportunities, investors are reassessing the longer-term possibilities, given the demise of Japan and the idiosyncrasies of the Hong Kong market which is essentially based on the value of real estate. At the same time, there is a growing realisation in Beijing that its ambitious programme of social and economic reform can

only be achieved with the help of foreign money.

For foreign investors, the lure is double-digit growth. This year has been relatively poor for China because of the financial crisis in the region. Growth in GDP during the first quarter was 7.2 per cent, which is below the ten-year trend. Estimates for the year put the rate at about 6 per cent. "Next year and 2000 will be far better," said Mr Dangerfield, of AIB Govett, who

forecasts an annual rate of between 9 and 10 per cent for the two years.

"China is embarking on the most radical package of reforms since the Seventies," said Mr Chu. "The current reforms are multidimensional and this requires huge funds through asset sales, IPOs (initial public offerings), and management buyouts. A huge recapitalisation will also be necessary to beef up the state banks which are reputed to have 15-20 per cent non-performing loans."

In short, a mass sell-off is imminent. Beijing is already drawing up plans to privatise its housing stock, much as the Conservative Government of the 1980s attempted to do with council properties, albeit on a much grander scale. At present, the overwhelming majority of people are housed either by the State or by their employers. Complementary plans are afoot for a fledgling mortgage market.

Foreign companies are likely to win control of Chinese assets by assuming the State's responsibility for social welfare. For example, if UK plc

The record of foreign direct investors making money is patchy

Kong, and H shares, again listed in the former British colony.

Less well known is the fact that there is a second species of mainland stock, which although transferable and carrying the same voting rights, are not tradeable. But being China, they are traded in the "green market", albeit at a 50 per cent discount to their tradeable cousins. Mr Chu believes that this is unsustainable over time: the second

species must become tradeable at some point.

While these are immediate opportunities, investors are reassessing the longer-term possibilities, given the demise of Japan and the idiosyncrasies of the Hong Kong market which is essentially based on the value of real estate. At the same time, there is a growing realisation in Beijing that its ambitious programme of social and economic reform can

BUSINESS LETTERS

Lloyd's names need to be represented

From M. H. G. Young
Sir, The decline in the number of members of Lloyd's and a number of acquisitions and mergers has resulted in there being just 15 members' agents left in the Lloyd's market. With the potential for the demise of unlimited names, one would think that pure self-interest would have led all these agents to do their absolute utmost to protect their names' business and thus their own.

I had assumed that each agent would send an appropriate senior director to each meeting of the Lloyd's Underwriting Agents' Association, but frequently those that attend are not authorised by their companies to agree to a course of action for the LUAA. Thus, it is not as effective and

efficient a body as it should be. If names are not to be elbowed aside by managing agents, they need to have the strongest representation inside and outside Lloyd's. In the current climate, this might be an appropriate time for names to ask those on the inside who does attend LUAA meetings and if they are suitably empowered.

Of course, it may not help that some members' agents are heavily involved with, or owned by, large corporate vehicles. Perhaps those agents' agendas and best interests are different to those for whom they act.

Yours sincerely,
M. H. G. YOUNG,
22 Arundel Road,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent, TN11 1TB.

The real cost of incorporated underwriting

From Mr A.F. Smallbone
Sir, Jon Ashworth reports (June 13) claims by Robert Hiscox that underwriting via limited liability companies involves "lower expenses".

No worthwhile evidence is produced to justify this tendentious assertion, and if it were plausible, Lord Cromer would not have reported in 1969: "Lloyd's has had the advantage of a simple and adaptable organisation... and an ability to compete effectively because of lower costs."

The real story is that incorporated underwriting agencies are anxious to appropriate

the goodwill built up by the natural names, and obtain the renewals of existing business for their own commercial advantage, at the expense of the agencies' "name" principals.

This practice was supposedly outlawed by the decision in Keech v Sandford in 1726, but once again the Lloyd's governing body is exhibiting a reluctance to heed the objects of the society specified in the Lloyd's acts, notably: "... advancement and protection interests of the members..."

Yours faithfully,
A.F. SMALLBONE,
30 Temple Fortune Lane,
London, NW11 7UD.

Society voter in a fix

From Mrs Avril Fox
Sir, As an incentive to support mutual, the Nationwide Building Society has announced it is to hand out an extra £100 million in benefits to its customers in the form of

improved rates for savers and borrowers. That provides no incentive for savers who hold fixed-rate bonds to vote mutual.

Yours faithfully,
AVRIL FOX,
126 Edgwarebury Lane,
Edgware, HA8 8NB.

Close call

TWO of SmithKline Beecham's most senior research scientists have been seriously injured in a car crash in the States. Peter Goodfellow and Brian Metcalf were visiting the company's research facility in Maryland. Both men's conditions are described as "serious but stable", with various broken bones and so on, although fortunately they seem to have avoided head injuries.

They are conscious, and Jan Leschly, SmithKline Beecham's chief executive,

has spoken to them in hospital. Metcalf is expected to be out in a few days. The pony-tailed Goodfellow, one of the most respected experts on genetics in the world, had only been with the company about 18 months. He should be transferred to an orthopaedics unit soon.

THIS sounds like a fun job for the right person. The Marylebone Cricket Club is looking for a head of finance. Nothing so vulgar as a salary mentioned, but you must be a mature person with stature, comfortable working within the culture of a private members' club, which I suppose translates as "must have gone to the right public school". Oh, and with a "strong interest in cricket".

BA lore

THE story of Sir Colin Marshall and a certain dumpy child killer was reaching epic proportions yesterday. Sir Colin had apparently sat next to Louise Woodward for the entire flight across the Atlantic and conversed with her throughout, the story went, possibly holding her hand the



while. ("So at last she's paid her debt to society," said one wag. Oh, and British Airways paid for her first class flight.

The truth is rather different. Sir Colin, soon to be Lord Marshall, is so ubiquitous these days that it was probably inevitable he was on that flight. It was a coincidence, a trip booked two months ago. He did not sit next to her - you can't in first class these days. He did talk to Woodward and her father briefly. BA does not discuss ticketing arrangements, but the airline did not pay. Assume that, once the captain realised what they could expect on arrival in London, the two were quietly upgraded to first class to avoid inconvenience to other passengers.

MARIA BARTROMO, the New York Stock Exchange "Money Honey" who visited Liffe yesterday, was not allowed on the hallowed trading floor after all. Bartromo, who presents a morning TV briefing from the New York floor, was on CNBC, the business channel, live from Liffe, if you see what I mean. She was filmed from the media gallery. Whether this was because the authorities had taken seriously Liffe traders might take a slug at her I cannot say.

But I learn that Bartromo has another nickname in the City for her TV work. She is known, less flatteringly, as "The Woman in the way" for her habit of standing among the traders while they carry on with their work. "She does take her life into her hands," says my informant.

Flying high

THERE was nearly a happy reunion in the travel industry when First Choice looked at buying Flying Colours. Errol Cossey, the man behind Flying Colours, is something of a serial airline founder, having created Air Europe for Harry Goodman's International Leisure Group of evil memory. He also put together Air 2000 for Owners Abroad, which

was what First Choice used to be before a spot of financial clear air turbulence necessitated a change of management and name.

But First Choice decided the value Cossey was putting on his new venture was a long way outside the holiday camp, so allowing Thomas Cook a clear shot. No reflection on Cossey's abilities. I must assume, unlike some of his colleagues, he left Owners Abroad voluntarily, apparently preferring to work for a smaller outfit. How he will fare with the even bigger Thomas Cook one cannot say, but Cossey, 54, will run the combined airline fleet.

MARTIN WALLER



Errol Cossey, who is behind Flying Colours, is seen as a serial airline founder

RICHEMONT

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1998

The Board of Directors of Compagnie Financière Richemont AG announces the following results for the year ended 31 March 1998.

	1998	1997	
Operating Profit	£ 1 044.4 m	£ 954.2 m	+ 9.5%
Profit Attributable to Unitholders	£ 386.0 m	£ 302.9 m	+ 27.4%
Earnings per Unit	£ 67.22	£ 52.75	+ 27.4%
Dividend per Unit	£ 11.50	£ 9.40	+ 22.3%

The financial highlights shown above exclude the effects of exceptional items and goodwill amortisation from the results for both years.

- The Group's operating profit increased by £ 90.2 million (9.5 per cent) to £ 1 044.4 million, reflecting good underlying growth in operating profit in the Group's tobacco and luxury goods businesses, together with a significant reduction in the level of losses arising in respect of the Group's pay television interests. The growth in operating profit of £ 90.2 million was achieved after adverse currency effects arising from the strength of sterling of some £ 132 million.
- Operating profit from the Group's tobacco operations, held through Rothmans International, increased by 15.9 per cent at constant exchange rates, reflecting growth in all regions with particular improvements in France, Malaysia and the United Kingdom.
- The Group's luxury goods business, held through Vendôme Luxury Group, showed continued growth with operating profit increasing by 15.2 per cent in Swiss franc terms.
- Profit attributable to unitholders and earnings per unit, adjusted to exclude exceptional items and goodwill amortisation, increased by 27.4 per cent to £ 386.0 million and £ 67.22, respectively.
- The annual dividend is increased by 22.3 per cent to £ 11.50 per unit.

Copies of the full results announcement and the annual report may be obtained from:
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Remind me, Miss Jones, should I be celebrating today or feeling suicidal?

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, share price, and other financial metrics. Includes sections for various fund categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market.

Advertisement for SKY 2 channels, featuring the text '2 channels devoted to business news 24 hours a day.' and 'All you need is Sky'.

Small text at the bottom of the page, likely containing publication details or legal notices.



DANCE Ashley Page premiere at the Barbican THIS PAGE

THE TIMES ARTS

POP Billy Bragg rewrites Woody Guthrie PAGE 38



Whose show is it anyway?

THEATRE: Boosted by alternative comedy and TV, improvisation is coming of age, says Andy Lavender

In the theatre the actors have usually learnt their lines. They have rehearsed. Their performance is practised. But what if they have no script, have prepared no moves, and make things up as they go along?

This is the lure of improvisation: the more spontaneous the performance, the more thrilling for the audience. At least, that is the principle behind a brand of improvisation which has become popular over the past decade, by way of the alternative comedy circuit and radio and television shows such as The Mastermind Inheritance and Whose Line Is It Anyway?.

The seeds of this approach were sown by Keith Johnstone, now Professor Emeritus of the University of Calgary in Canada, who helped to establish the Writers' Group at the Royal Court in the 1950s and whose book, Impro, had large numbers of advocates donning masks and working on their spontaneity.

"People often think of improvisation as like the harpichord - a not-yet-invented grand piano, as if it's on the way to something else," says Johnstone. "But you can get effects that you can't get in straight theatre."

A good deal of comic improvisation seems condemned to be trivial, lacking straight theatre's narrative featuring interesting characters and issues of some substance. But Johnstone has invented a number of theatre-game formats, one of which, Lifegame, combines theatre's depth and poignancy with the improviser's here-and-now creativity.

Johnstone featured Lifegame in a series of workshops which he led in Dorset in 1985. One of the participants was Phelim McDermott, who recognised its potency. In 1996 McDermott set up Improbable Theatre, along with co-artistic directors Lee Simpson

and Julian Crouch. The company's first projects, Animo and 70 Hill Lane, blending improvised storytelling, puppetry and music, have already toured internationally.

McDermott's next move was to invite Johnstone to help Improbable to prepare for a new series of Lifegame performances. The format is clear, simple and open to endless permutation. A guest is questioned on stage by an interviewer about his or her life. At various moments a director stops the conversation, and asks the team of performers to present a scene that has just been described.

In Improbable's version, McDermott doubles as both interviewer and director. The show generally moves chronologically, from the guest's childhood, through adolescent influences, romances, partnerships and key moments in adult life. It might end with an idyllic fantasy about one's old age, or some desired meeting or fulfilled ambition.

With most improvisation you remember you had a good time and you laughed, but not much actually seemed to happen," says Johnstone. "Lifegame" has pathos and emotional commitment. For the first 20 minutes the subjects usually give out cutesy stories which they're in control of. But as you see the thing presented it starts to unlock all kinds of areas."

The result is certainly affecting. A group of performers improvising scenes is entertaining enough, but in some ways it is the most superficial level of the show. You also imagine what the actual exchange must have been like in the life of the guest. And you begin to compare events like the one you are watching - a first kiss, a visit to granny, a letter - to their equivalents in your own life.

Johnstone describes the show as "a strange communal ritual which usually generates a lot of warmth". The guests are preselected, so audiences are not sitting in dread of being called to the stage, but are not rehearsed. On occa-



Improbable Theatre's version of Lifegame, "a strange communal ritual which usually generates a lot of warmth"

sion they might be asked to participate in the staging, whispering lines for the actors to speak, or playing a relative. "A lot of people have said it's an extraordinary experience for them," says McDermott. "This 91-year-old guy we interviewed in Leeds told some

amazing stories. He thought he'd escaped being called up during the war, and then they raised the age. He had to leave on the day of his wife's birthday. He said: 'I gave her a present, took her to work and got on the train, not knowing if I'd ever see her again.' We did

a kind of Brief Encounter-style rendering of this scene, and it was so moving. At the end he thanked the audience. I think he felt that his story was being validated.

"Theatre's about being able to examine things that are potentially difficult, or painful, or important, in a safe environment. Just seeing people on stage looking at themselves has an effect on an audience, because they see what power that has."

Lifegame is at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith (0181-741 2311) from Tuesday to Saturday June 27

Deceit and desire

Since Fearful Symmetries turned Ashley Page into a hitmaker in 1994, the Royal Ballet choreographer has been busy making ballets like a man possessed. Most of them have been for Dance Bites, the company's small-scale touring initiative, a fact which has given him the freedom to pursue ever more cryptic concoctions. Some clicked, some didn't, but even those which didn't could boast a strong creative hand.

Page's latest work, Cheating, Lying, Stealing, made for the Royal's Barbican season, falls into the "clicked" category, although it tries hard to alienate its audience. The music, a combination of brutalist scores by the Americans David Lang and Michael Gordon, ranges from uninviting to downright irritating, its clanging attacks proving too much for some. Yet like it or not, Cheating, Lying, Stealing plays to the Royal's strengths.

Page works from a well-schooled classical base but reassembles the technique's component elements into destabilising and stressful choreography. Such an attitude suits the relationships his choreography illustrates -

DANCE Royal Ballet Barbican

male-female couplings are inherently distrustful; desire and obsession are catalysts for conflict. Page's chic cynicism focuses on two couples who confront each other in lustful, lunging duets - ferocious bare legs flying, pointe shoes stabbing the space. The choreography is fast and driven, tenderness is thin on the ground and deception perfumes the air. Atmosphere comes alive, thanks to Antony McDonald's evocative designs: a lonely prairie landscape seen through a car windshield; ponderous moving blocks in a dark unspecified interior.

The furious thrust of Page's writing may have its obfuscations but it does wonders for the traditional repertoire - while Viviana Durante, Mara Galeazzi and William Trevitt are terrific.

DEBRA CRAINE

A bit of a Wallis

If Paul Webb's portrait of Wallis Simpson is to be believed, it was she, rather than Edward VIII, who suffered most from his abdication. Just before his funeral, Fenella Fielding's tipsy Wallis drinks vodka and reminisces about what might have been to a silent female lawyer.

She reclines on a chaise longue, regally throws out her lines and acts as if Kay D'Arcy's lawyer simply does not exist. When she has nothing to say, she makes twitzy little moues at the audience.

Her performance is a triumph of memory over content. Webb's heroine attacks the Royal Family with the artless enthusiasm of Princess Diana, and schemes like a female Richard III. The first half is a tedious rerun of the courtship. The second half unfolds as if Webb was suddenly horrified at trying to take his heroine seriously. It disintegrates into farce, with the increasingly drunk duchess making wild claims about affairs with people as disparate as Hitler, Franco and Nixon.

"Sex with David [her pet name for the duke] was merci-

fully brief... something he had in common with Jack Kennedy." There are spicy tales of the Windsor's involvement in drug-running, contraband and murder when holing up in the Bahamas during the Second World War. The duke emerges from 30 years of cocktail parties and charity balls like a lobotomised English football fan.

Sophistication does not come easily to Fielding or Webb. You have the sense that this Mrs Simpson's story gets more fantastical at each telling and that by the end of the run she will be spinning whoppers about nights of passion with Gordon Brown. Webb's creation is like a tawdry workmonster waiting to be turned into candles.

Lifegame is at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith (0181-741 2311) from Tuesday to Saturday June 27

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

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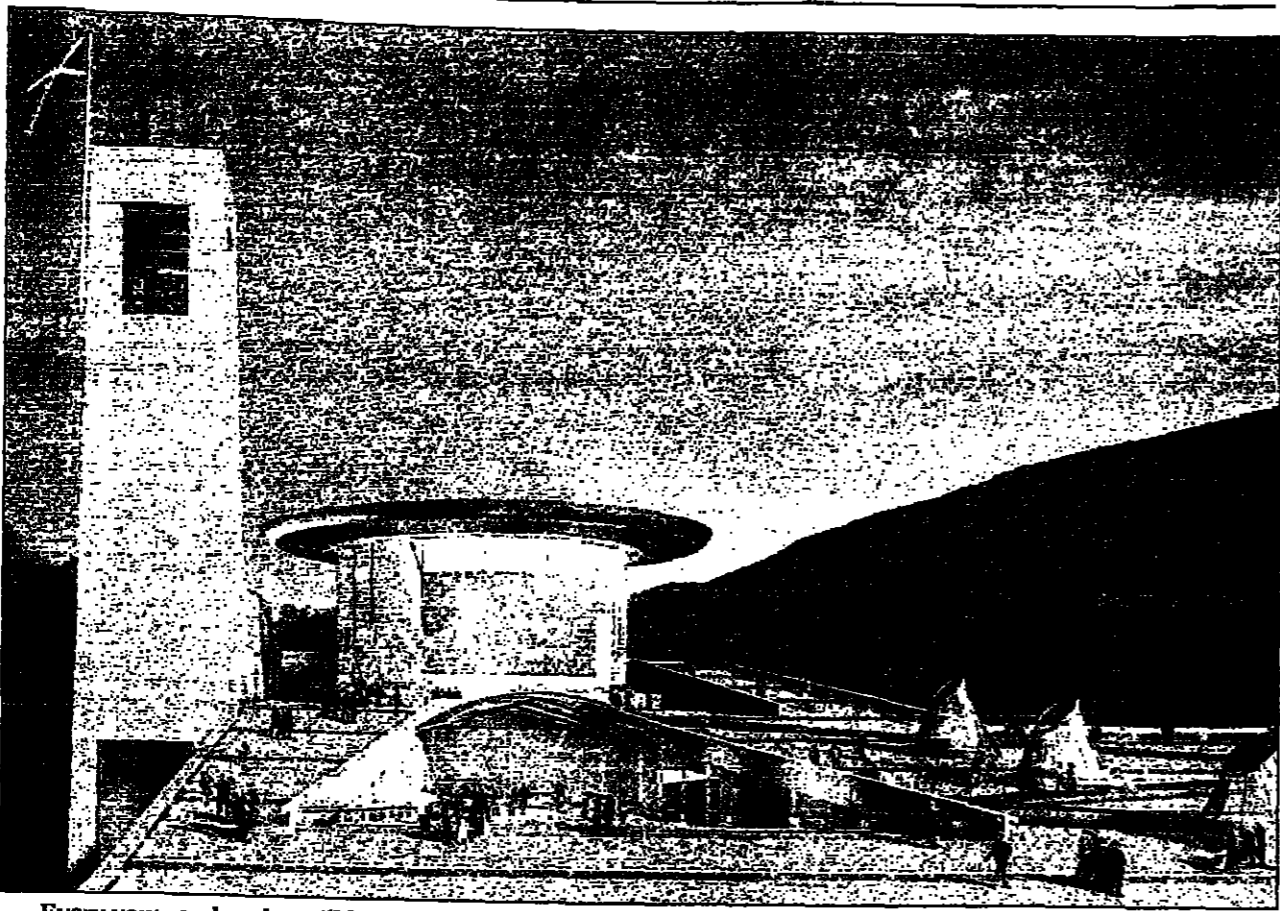
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ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER AND JIM STEINMAN'S NEW MUSICAL WHISTLE down the WIND PREVIEWS FROM MONDAY OPENS 1 JULY 0171 416 6000 0171 957 4001 ALDWYCH THEATRE

ARCHITECTURE: Marcus Binney on a row over the new Scottish assembly



Every vow you break, we'll be watching you: Michael Wilford's design offers a billboard-size exterior screen

Furious controversy has erupted as Donald Dewar tries to rush through designs for the new Scottish assembly so that it can be opened in 2001, comfortably in advance of the next British general election. Gavin Stamp, the architectural historian and critic who lives in Glasgow, says: "It's scandalous that one man should decide what Scotland needs. The Scottish parliament should decide."

Perfectly good premises are already available in the Royal High School on Calton Hill, which was converted at the time of the 1977 referendum. Dewar's chosen site is dreadful. It's low, not particularly accessible, just the site of an old brewery.

Further fury centres on the way Dewar chose the five shortlisted architects who are now competing for the £50 million commission. Four of the practices are big international names who have teamed up with Scottish architects. The fifth, London-based Michael Wilford, is allowing his Glasgow-born partner Lawrence Bain to lead the bid.

Scottish architects who entered the lists on their own, such as Page & Park of Glasgow, widely regarded as Scotland's finest young architects, were brushed aside. Richard Murphy, one of Edinburgh's top architects, was also cut out. In a capital made glorious by superb Scottish architects, such tactics have produced dismay.

Alexander Stoddart, sculptor and monumentalist, says: "It's as if Michelangelo was ruled out of a competition because he didn't have an office in New York. Charles Rennie Mackintosh, equally wouldn't have stood a chance: he always worked alone." Like many Scots, Stoddart believes

Hot air rises over Holyrood

that Calton Hill, come what may, will be the eventual site of a Scottish parliament. "Anything Dewar builds on another site will be temporary," he says.

As part of Dewar's site selection process, Page & Park were commissioned to draw up plans for converting St Andrew's House on Calton Hill into the parliament. But Dewar, it seems, thought that it looked too like the Dalai Lama's palace in Lhasa.

Dewar chose Holyrood, and his five selected teams were given just three weeks to produce proposals to show to the public. "So far there has been a lack of interaction between architect and client," says the American Richard Meier, best known for his Getty Center in California. "I very much hope, if we are chosen, that we can explore several ideas simultaneously."

At a time when architects have become superbly adept at producing models and computer images that are easily understood, Dewar insisted on a format more akin to an end-of-year show at an architectural school. Each team of architects was required to produce six panels analysing the site and showing alterna-

tive ways to proceed. This is all the stranger as, according to Terry Levinthal of Edinburgh's Cockburn Association, models were actually supplied by the architects.

Dewar's chosen five have nonetheless come up with arresting ideas. Rafael Vinoly, whose Tokyo Forum building is in the same league as the new Guggenheim in Bilbao, has designed a debating chamber set in a huge glass drum without apparent structural supports.

Michael Wilford sets the chamber on the bedrock, symbolically assigning sovereignty to the people by creating walkways up to a fine roof terrace that looks into the chamber. Here is democracy's answer to screening opera in Covent Garden Piazza. Scots will be able to watch debates on a billboard-size screen while taking the sun outside.

Richard Meier, arch-exponent of fashionable white modernism, has set his new glass-fronted parliament at the back of a large square, like his Museum of Modern Art in Barcelona. The debating chamber echoes the cylindrical

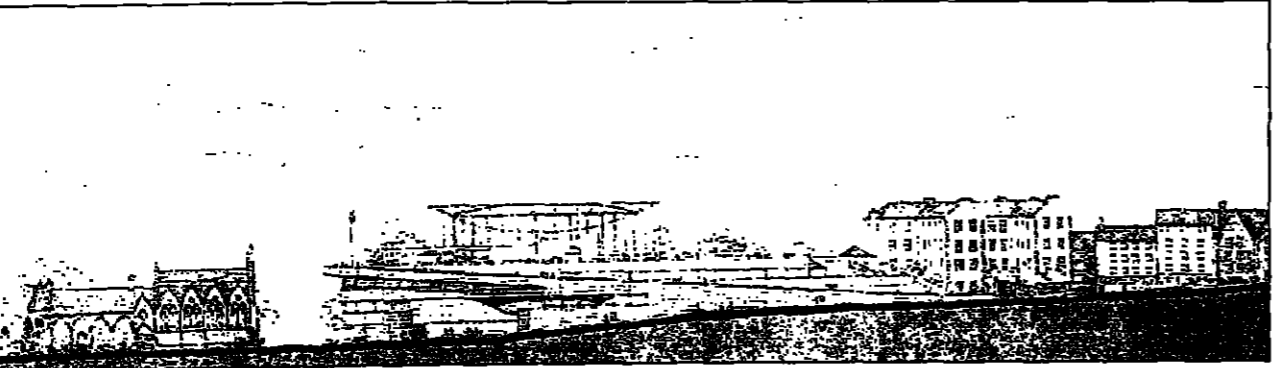
form of an ancient Scottish fort. "The stone will be quarried in Scotland," says Meier.

The leading Melbourne architect Denton Corker Marshall (working with the Scots firm Glass Murray) offers a debating chamber enclosed in a metal veil, while the Barcelona firm Enric Miralles y Moya (working with RMJM Scotland, who designed the plush Scottish Office at Leith) has produced a dramatic design of boat-shaped buildings.

There was a public debate on the new parliament at the Museum of Scotland last night. One of those speaking was George Grams of the Scottish Environmental Design Association. "I believe this should be a singularly Scottish building," he says. "The entries I've seen could equally be in Sweden, Australia or Kuala Lumpur. The new parliament should support Scottish industry, using local stone and as few plastics as possible. Building and materials must be reusable."

Levinthal, another of the speakers, is concerned that Dewar is treating the site as fit for the bulldozer when it is actually part of the Old Town conservation area and a World Heritage site. True, Dewar is preserving Queensberry House, but an adjacent barracks of 1802 is being swept away. Levinthal points out that "the Scottish Office's own appraisal concluded that Calton Hill was far the best from both environmental and transport viewpoints".

But support for Dewar comes from Devan Sudjic, director of Glasgow's 1999 Festival of Architecture. "For the first time in nearly 1,000 years, Scotland is going to build a new parliament that is clearly of its own time rather than a nostalgic evocation of the past," he says.



Rafael Vinoly has designed a debating chamber set in a huge glass drum without apparent structural supports

Spirits in the harmonic thunder

WE ARE used to hearing clean notes, immediate tones, without apparent interference. The rapier point of an oboe or the domino tinkle of piano keys have so brilliant a surface that we rarely listen for all the harmonics. So it is an arresting experience to hear Ghanaian drums and percussion beaten out in an acoustic as resonant as Christ Church and to feel, rather than hear, pitches emerging from under the hammering. Little wonder spirits in the final work of this programme by Ensemble Bash and the Ghanaian gyl players Paulinus Bozie and Mario Deiekuuroh, the thundering drums, stampeding above these African xylophones, set up vibrations in the church which eerily resembled a crowd of calling voices.

Chris Brannick opened the concert with an improvised flourish of Lisztian

MANY little-known glories of the French Baroque repertory are being presented at the Luthfiansa Festival of Baroque Music and among the most neglected was the sacred music of Marc-Antoine Charpentier. It is only in the past few years that his genius has been recognised. Take, for example, the motets performed by Ex Cathedra at its festival debut. *Le Reniement de St Pierre* takes the form of a dramatised exchange. Human passions flare up at the moment of Peter's third denial of Christ in an extraordinary quartet in which the insistence of his three accusers and his own increasingly vehement protestations build rapidly to an agitated climax.

The *Salve Regina* for three choirs, on the other hand, begins conventionally enough as a double-choir setting, sonorous and spacious. The addition of

CONCERTS

Ensemble Bash

Spitalfields Festival

virtuosity on a gyl. Like all the Bash members, he is an outstanding exponent of a bewildering array of instruments, but when the Ghanaians took centre stage, complete with antiphonal singing, there was exhilarating energy and freedom in their style.

After the unfamiliar harmonies of the gyl performance, one of Chick Corea's *louche little Children's Songs* on marimba and vibraphone made an excellent palate freshener, and preluded John Cage's *Second Construction*. This nightily cogent early work for prepared piano and percussion is from Cage the student

Paradigm regained

Ex Cathedra
St James's, Piccadilly

a third group of three solo voices and theorbo continuo at some distance down the central aisle of the church again made for a highly original piece, full of dark, dissonant harmonies.

Ex Cathedra was on fine form, with a full rich tone and responsive to the nuances of text and phrase. Their director, Jeffrey Skidmore, achieved a good sense of flow, and the balance

of Schoenberg, and now sounds conservative, but is still touched with genius. Composer Chris Fox further pared down the resources in his *Art of Concealment*, a "pocket opera". The agenda remained concealed, but morris men's bells have never sounded so threatening.

Stroll, Fox's aim of thwarting aural anticipation was not realised. This, rather, was an outcome of Xavier Alvarez's *Nocturno*, in which steel pans cut scimitar notes through hypnotic rippling marimbas like turbo-powered flutes. The companion piece *Toque* (Touch) was a dizzying if overlong exploration of musical cells, which had the tonal confusion of ancient bell peals, pitches keening downwards as they fell into the spaces of Christ Church.

HELEN WALLACE

between instrumentalists and singers was excellent.

Only in Charpentier's four-choir Mass setting did the choral singing sound rather stretched, and the longer sections seemed directionless. What did work very well was the introduction of organ verses by André Raison and Nicolas-Antoine Lebeque, stylishly played on the chamber organ by David Ponsford, between the movements of the Mass and, most fascinating of all, monophonic settings by Charpentier of hymns to St Nicetas. They were beautifully sung by Steven Harrold and Jonathan Gunthorpe. Indeed, the solo singing throughout was sheer delight, with Paul Agnew the embodiment of all that is best about a stylistically aware performance.

TESS KNIGHTON

ENGLISH HERITAGE

MUSIC

ON A

SUMMER EVENING

Picnic and party as England's historic properties come to life with a series of outdoor concerts featuring the countries top performers.

<p>KENWOOD LAKESIDE <i>The beautiful grounds of Kenwood House form a natural amphitheatre for a spectacular summer season of concerts.</i></p> <p>AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR <i>Saturday 4th July at 7.30pm</i></p> <p>VIENNESE GALA CONCERT <i>Sunday 5th July at 7.30pm</i></p> <p>HOOKED ON CLASSICS <i>Saturday 11th July at 7.30pm</i></p> <p>FROM 2001 TO STAR WARS <i>Saturday 18th July at 7.30pm</i></p> <p>ACKER MEETS THE DUKE <i>Saturday 25th July at 7.30pm</i></p> <p>TCHAIKOVSKY CLASSICS <i>Saturday 1st August at 7.30pm</i></p> <p>GERSHWIN CENTENARY CELEBRATION <i>Saturday 8th August at 7.30pm</i></p> <p>MUSIC FOR THE ROYAL FIREWORKS <i>Saturday 15th August at 7.30pm</i></p> <p>CLASSICAL FAVOURITES <i>Saturday 22nd August at 7.30pm</i></p> <p>LAST NIGHT OF THE KENWOOD PROMS <i>Saturday 29th August at 7.30pm</i></p> <p>MOVIE IN THE PARK PHANTOM OF THE OPERA <i>Saturday 5th September at 8.00</i></p> <p>MARBLE HILL HOUSE <i>Party in the grounds of this elegant house on the banks of the River Thames near Richmond.</i></p> <p>RUSSIAN FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR <i>Sunday 26th July at 7.30pm</i></p> <p>AN EVENING WITH CLEO LAINE, JOHN DANKWORTH AND FRIENDS <i>Sunday 2nd August at 7.30pm</i></p> <p>ORCHESTRAL FIREWORKS <i>Sunday 9th August at 7.30pm</i></p> <p>CARMINA BURANA <i>Sunday 16th August at 7.30pm</i></p> <p>LAST NIGHT OF THE MARBLE HILL PROMS <i>Sunday 23rd August at 7.30pm</i></p>	<p>AUDLEY END <i>Passionate performances to picnic and party to in the palatial grounds of Audley End near Saffron Walden.</i></p> <p>AN EVENING WITH CLEO LAINE, JOHN DANKWORTH AND FRIENDS <i>Saturday 25th July at 7.30 pm</i></p> <p>MUSIC FOR THE ROYAL FIREWORKS <i>Sunday 26th July at 7.30 pm</i></p> <p>THE HOLLYWOOD STORY <i>Saturday 1st August at 7.30 pm</i></p> <p>LAST NIGHT OF THE AUDLEY END PROMS <i>Sunday 2nd August at 7.30 pm</i></p> <p>TILBURY FORT <i>Expansive views of the Thames from this historic fort provide a perfect setting for great music.</i></p> <p>JAZZ AT THE FORT WITH KENNY BALL, CHRIS BARBER, HUMPHREY LYTTTELTON AND RAY TERRY <i>Saturday 5th September at 6.00pm</i></p> <p>LAST NIGHT OF THE TILBURY FORT PROMS <i>Sunday 6th September at 7.30pm</i></p>
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NEW ALBUMS
Virtuosic Dave Matthews



Sheryl Crow, one of the stars on A&M, the label whose closure has led to speculations of doom

ARTS
Revolution
number nine

The decision to close down the A&M record label, announced by its parent company PolyGram on Monday, is the latest bad news to hit an already jittery music industry. While the bigger stars on the label — including Sting, Bryan Adams and Sheryl Crow — and some of the staff will find new homes among other PolyGram subsidiaries, some of the less-established acts will be dropped and there will inevitably be staff redundancies.

The closure, which is apparently unconnected to the recently agreed takeover of PolyGram by the Canadian group Seagram, is part of a cost-cutting exercise. And it conforms to a pattern of events which has led to talk of an imminent apocalypse in music business circles. In recent weeks Chrysalis has also been "restructured", completing a process which has seen the EMI-owned label "practically downsized out of existence", as one industry insider put it. A number of this summer's festivals have been cancelled due to poor ticket sales. And after five years of rapid growth, sales of records are currently flat in Britain, and have actually fallen by 7 per cent in America. According to the NME, which last week ran an eight-page report under the heading *The Great Rock'n'Roll Dwindle*, the music industry is in the early throes of a depression which could be terminal.

Profound changes are said to be afoot, so much so that Alan McGee of Creation Records predicts "there will be no record companies in five or ten years' time", and that artists will instead download their music direct to consumers via the Internet. While things may look alarming on the surface, those with long memories will recall that the music industry has weathered similar periods of retrenchment before. There was much pessimistic talk in the early 1990s, when sales of

POP: Labels are closing and sales are flat. So is this the end, asks David Sinclair?

records were static and everything from computer games to comedians were being touted as "the new rock'n'roll", and there was a similar downturn at the start of the 1980s when the disco bubble burst. What we are now witnessing is nothing so dramatic as the end of pop as we know it. Rather it is the latest turn of the wheel in a cyclical process that has been going on since rock'n'roll began in the 1950s. Indeed, the sense of déjà vu evoked by the current situation is overpowering. Here is Mick Farren writing in the *NME* in 1980: "It really does seem that rock'n'roll and its obvious cohort the recording industry are approaching a very serious crisis point. On the one hand you have a disastrous slump in record sales, on the other you have the advent of cheap, good quality home-taping equipment making the record obsolete... It's a revolution that could overturn the record industry as we know it."

Three years later the first CDs went on sale, the start of a technological revolution that triggered a phenomenal period of record industry growth. In the same *NME* piece, Farren also complained about "too many musicians starting into the past for inspiration" and warned that "creativity is not going to be energised by a constant recycling of the past". Oh no? Tell that to Oasis and their Britpop acolytes, or the rap acts from Puff Daddy to the smart new wave of big beat acts with their cheesy pop show themes, all of whom have made the 1990s a monument to the art of recycling.

Far from being on its last legs, pop is in one of its revolutionary phases, at a point in the cycle that bears a marked similarity to the period of 1975-76 which preceded punk. Now, as then, the music business has become over-inflated, self-regarding and riddled with hubris. Successful acts such as Blur and Pulp have become remote and out of touch with the lifestyle and needs of their fans, while new acts can hardly get a look-in.

As in the pre-punk 1970s, to get a foot on the ladder nowadays you have to have some kind of pedigree and the full weight of a massive, carefully-orchestrated marketing campaign behind you. If you are a former member of Suede or the Stone Roses or Take That, or your brother is in Radiohead, then with a bit of luck and patience the money-men may eventually get you into the charts. But if you are a teenager who has just started a band in Leeds or Glasgow, then you have a five-year slog ahead of you, after which your demo will probably still not get any further than the front desk of one of the megacorp record companies in London.

Musically, too, a mood of decadent extravagance is abroad, next to which the excesses of the progressive-rock era of the 1970s pale by comparison. Albums by even relatively little-known acts routinely boast grandiose string arrangements, while rambling double-CDs encompassing the odd 20-minute "concept" suite have become the norm among the more serious end of the dance and drum'n'bass crowd.

So we probably are due a back-to-basics meltdown and what more fitting time could there be to usher in a new year zero in pop than the impending deadline of 2000? But pop and the industry that sells it will doubtless emerge on the other side, stronger, fitter and bolder than ever.

LISTINGS
Miss Jean Brodie returns

RECOMMENDED TODAY
A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marti Hargie

LONDON
DON GIOVANNI: The lesser-known four-act opera of the same name by the contemporary, Italian composer Giuseppe Gazzaniga with a libretto by Giovanni Battista, is staged by the London Royal School of Vocal Faculty Michael Rossini. Conducted by Tim Cahoon. Production: Royal College of Music (0171-589 3643) Tomorrow, Mon-Wed, 7.30pm.
THE ICEBERG COMETH: Kevin Spacey plays Hickey in Howard Davies's sharply cast and magnificent production. Transfer from the Almeida. Old Vic, SE1 (0171-426 7618) Opens tonight, 7pm. Last Aug 1.
THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE: Fiona Shaw plays the cultured school-mistress, working to create the crime de crime at her former Edinburgh academy. Physics Lloyd directed revised version of the Muriel Spink/Lay Presson Allen classic. National Theatre (Lyttelton) (0171-462 3000) Preview from tonight, 7.30pm. Opens June 23, 7pm in repertory. (E)
JULIE FULFORD: The 1990s folk-music icon celebrates her 50th birthday with a concert of songs tracing her career from the heady early days to her present day status as a highly respected international artist. Queen Elizabeth Hall (0171-960 4052) Tonight, 8pm (E)
ELSEWHERE
ALDBURGH: Part of the weekend's festival also includes a concert tomorrow.

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the best movies
NEW RELEASES
CITY OF ANGELS (12): Restless angel Nicolas Cage falls for heart surgeon Meg Ryan. Intelligent romantic drama. Directed by John Wood. Wings of Desire Director. Brad Pitt starring.
DREAM WITH THE FISHES (18): Tired carp breaks loose with a heron and a few weeks from death. Lush and bleak comedy in the maverick 1970s spirit. With David Aquino and Brad Pitt. Winter-director. Finn Taylor.
THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15): Teenage life and loves of Best Generation legend Neal Cassady. Hip, impressionistic, worshipful film. With Thomas Jane and Kieran Reeves. Director: Stephen Key.
POPE BLANK (15): Lee Marvin's criminal strikes past associates like an avenging angel. Welcome revival of John Boorman's cool, stylish thriller of 1967. With Anglo-Debraam.
SAVIOR (18): Emotionally damaged Dennis Quaid becomes a Serbian mercenary. Hollow anti-war drama. Filmed in Montenegro.
CURRENT
THE APOSTLE (12): Engrossing portrait of a flawed Puritanical preacher, memorably portrayed by Robert Duvall, who also writes and directs. With Miranda Richardson, Fanny Pantoni.
DARK CITY (15): Rutger Hauer lights to regain his memory in a show like missing film noir track with sci-fi trappings. With Kiefer Sutherland.
THE GENERAL (15): Dynamic portrait of the buccannering Irish criminal Martin Cahill (Brendan Gleeson). Powerfully directed by John Boorman.
THE GRABER HARP (PG): Young boy loses with two eccentric spinners. Pleasing adaptation of Truman Capote's novel, with a pedigree cast. Charles Matthau directs. Ten Little Walter, Peter Lurie, Shay Spook, and Edward Furlong.
LIVE FLESH (18): Pedro Armador's latest, a succulent and absorbing tale of love, desire, guilt and revenge. Adapted from Ruth Rendell.
THE SCARLET TUNIC (12): German Hussar falls for Weissen maiden. Low-voltage romance from a Thomas Hardy story. With Jean-Marc Barr and Emma Fielding.
SLIDING DOORS (15): Sacked PR Gwyneth Paltrow finds a new life and boyfriend or does she? Pleasing romantic comedy, less complex than its lanky structure suggests. With John Travolta. Writer-director: Peter Hecht.
STIFF UPPER LIPS (15): Overly broad parody of Merchant Ivory films, with Phoebe Cates as the virginal Edwardian heroine who discovers sex. With Fionula Stanley, Peter Lurie.
THE WEDDING SINGER (12): Mid-Adem Sender and Drew Barrymore ever realize they're made for each other? Lightly disabbling romantic comedy, set in the mid 1930s. Director: Frank Coraci.
WILD THINGS (18): School counselor gets accused of rape. Exuberant thriller with more heat than a pretzel. With Matt Dillon, Denise Richards, and Kevin Bacon. Director: John Dahl.
MUSIC BY JOHN WILLIAMS

That's progress for you

DAVE MATTHEWS BAND
Before These Crowded Streets
RCA/BMG 07863 67660, £15.49
WHEREAS superlative musicianship is the norm in the fields of jazz and classical music, ostentatious displays of technical excellence are still regarded with deep suspicion in the pop world. This old-fashioned attitude is especially prevalent in Britain, where pop musicians are still supposed to be spontaneously gifted individuals with a raw talent for self-expression, not highly skilled élites. This goes some way to explaining why, despite having sold 11 million albums in America, the Dave Matthews Band are held in such low regard in this country, even if their most obvious forebears — Genesis and Sting (in jazz-rock mode) — are British.

The Matthews Band's third album, *Before These Crowded Streets*, is a long and flawless collection of progressive rock arabesques executed with precision and supercilious ease. The album's instrumental textures are spiced by Leroi Moore's various reeds, Boyd Tinsley's violin and, on *Hal-lo-ween* and *The Stone*, the string embellishments of the Kronos Quartet. In the forefront are the voice and words of Matthews, a singer with a light, sinewy tenor that occasionally descends to a rasping growl, and a rather laboured line in romantic symbolism. Although not unpleasant on the ear, the album has a rather remote, self-satisfied air, as if

POP ALBUMS

it had been designed and played under scientifically controlled conditions. Great musicianship is nothing to be sneered at, but rock'n'roll should not sound as if the participants are afraid of getting their hands dirty.

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N'Dea Davenport
V2 VVR1002022, £14.99
HER tenure with acid jazz pioneers the Brand New Heavies coincided with the British group's period of greatest success, but the American singer N'Dea Davenport has always been her own woman, maintaining a separate recording contract throughout and writing her own material. Brought up in Atlanta, Georgia, on a diet of gospel and soul music, Davenport has a classic R'n'B voice — strong and slightly wounded, but never shrill — and she is soon indulging in some vociferous, high-register show-boating on a slow, Memphis-type blues called *Save Your Love for Me*.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- (1) *Blue*.....Simply Red (East West)
- (2) *Talk on Corners*.....Corrs (Atlantic)
- (3) *When We Were The New Boys*...Rod Stewart (Warner)
- (4) *The Good Will Out*.....Embrace (Hut)
- (5) *Where We Belong*.....Boyzone (Polydor)
- (6) *Life Thru A Lens*.....Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
- (7) *Left Of The Middle*.....Natalie Imbruglia (RCA)
- (8) *Urban Hymns*.....Verve (Hut)
- (9) *All Saints*.....All Saints (London)
- (10) *Ray Of Light*.....Madonna (Waverick)
- (12) *Ray Of Light*.....Madonna (Waverick)

when an element of humour is involved, as in the raucous singalong of *Walt Whitman's Niece*, but he does not make a very convincing outlaw cowboy in *The Unwelcome Guest*. Wilco's litting country-rock music seems more in tune with the sentiments of Guthrie's lyrics, and singer Jeff Tweedy captures the conflicting elements of regret and optimism in Guthrie's work with a more natural poise, especially on the poignant *One by One*.

BILLY BRAGG & WILCO
Mermala Avenue
Elektra 7559-62204, £15.49
WHILE the spiritual link between Billy Bragg and the late Woody Guthrie is plain to see (see interview, opposite), the musical connection is less obvious. Both were fearless protest singers in their day, but whereas Guthrie was the authentic voice of America's folk heritage, Bragg, for all his worldly experience, remains the authentic voice of the British student sit-in. Bragg's attempts at setting the words of Guthrie to new music are most successful

FIVE
Five
RCA/BMG 743215 8976, £15.49
FIVE is clearly a number with mystical connotations as far as the five members of Five are concerned. It would also appear to be the optimum age at which the flavour of their music is best savoured. On *Five*, the eerily good-looking boys serve up the predictable musical *plats du jour* with a cocky spin and a twirl: a main course of R'n'B-influenced pop garnished with a sprinkling of rap, swingbeat and the occasional soft-rock flourish, such as the sample of Joan Jett's *I Love Rock'n'Roll* which underpins *Everybody Get Up*. May the Five be with you.

DAVID SINCLAIR

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498.

CHAOS theory hit Camden on Tuesday evening. Radiohead singer Thom Yorke had promised to turn up at Drugstore's Dingwalls gig to guest on a rendition of *El Presidente*, the band's recent Top 20 hit to which he contributed co-vocals. However, after lightning hit an audience member at the Tibetan Freedom Concert in Washington, DC, delaying Radiohead's appearance there by a day, Yorke's late return to England meant that he was unable to attend the show. Drugstore's feisty Brazilian front-woman, Isabel Monteiro, hid her disappointment well. "Mr Yorke couldn't be bothered to be here," she snapped, before launching into the track with guitarist Daron Robinson filling in for Yorke. Her irritation turned out to be bogus, all part of a playful interaction with fans which went down well. With her sultry good looks and sexy South American accent, Monteiro scarce-

Electric rock
LIVE GIG
Drugstore
Dingwalls, NW1

ly needed a sense of humour to appeal to the boys in the audience. When she revealed that the group's late start was due to a backstage celebration of Brazil's World Cup win over Morocco, then worked Ronaldo, Rivaldo and Bebeto into the song *Say Hello*, she had them eating out of her hand.

LISA VERRICO

Drugstore's short set consisted largely of tracks from the band's new second album, *White Magic For Lovers*. Monteiro's core art-rock influences are still at play, but she has trained her bluesy, broken vocals to flow at a faster pace. The new single *Sober* sounds like Mamie Street Preachers fronted by a female, while hints of Pulp and The Verve update a fascination for Sixties artists such as the Velvet Underground. Drugstore were joined briefly on stage by two sombrero-sporting trumpeters from the mariachi band which appears on *White Magic For Lovers*. The four-piece, which boasts a cellist in its line-up and has fans in Bob Dylan, Nick Cave and the Beastie Boys, began its encore with a derogatory ditty about the English football team. Had the gig not been brilliant, violence could have broken out.

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السنة الأولى

EDUCATION

السنة من الامتحان

Victoria McKee on how US universities offer visitors a great way to look and learn

Try an American summer

Summer schools have been gaining in popularity in Britain for a number of years, but the universities and independent schools which have cornered the market must now meet a challenge from across the Atlantic.

The hundreds of American colleges and universities with summer programmes offer perhaps the most exciting way to see the United States. You can choose your course by the location of the institution: art, photography and ceramics in the Hamptons, cinema and psychology at Berkeley, "cultural geography", communications and advertising in Hawaii, or marine biology at the Oceanographic Institute at Woods Hole, Cape Cod.

Even Harvard University has its summer sessions which are open to anyone, with no previous qualifications required.

New York's universities, such as NYU and Columbia, are among the most popular because they offer cut-price accommodation in one of the most expensive cities. Where you'd be hard-pressed to find a good hotel room at less than \$100 (about £58) a night, you can live in student accommodation for little more than \$200 for the summer.

Summer sessions are far from onerous. Some require only about five or six hours of classroom time a week, such as those at the University of California at Berkeley.

Gary Penders, the director of summer sessions at Berkeley, says: "We have about 12,000 students coming to our summer sessions — only about 900 from abroad, so it's not a foreign student's ghetto." A six-week session designed with international students in mind runs from July 6 to August 16 this year, covering business, marketing, social sciences and psychology. There is also a three-week session beginning July 27 with an emphasis on American studies, cultural studies and film studies.

Courses at Berkeley cost \$105 per semester unit, but there is a hefty

\$595 registration fee and an additional \$100 fee for those taking just the three-week American studies course. Student accommodation is available and costs \$700 including all meals for three weeks' sharing, \$900 private.

It is not necessary to take summer courses for credit — just as it is not necessary to have any previous qualifications or be any particular age. Some institutions — such as Southampton College of Long Island University — allow students to "audit" courses for half price if they aren't worried about accumulating credits.

At the chic Southampton College, "master workshops" in the arts, a writing programme and courses in marine and environmental science are available at \$649.50 for six or 12 weeks auditing, or twice as much if you're taking them for credits. This is one of the more expensive options, but accommodation is cheap in student dormitories, starting at \$210 for the entire summer.

Accommodation elsewhere in the Hamptons — one of America's most desirable summer playgrounds — is exorbitant, so it is worth signing on for the accommodation alone. Courses take up only two and a half hours a day, three days a week, leaving plenty of spare time. The next session runs from July 6 to August 14, and last-minute applications are welcome.

Everyone running university summer sessions in America seems keen to encourage students from abroad. They do not even mind if you say you're only there for the vacation.

Susan Hardy, of the University of Hawaii, points out: "We are right by the beach and we have an excellent public bus system, the best in the United States. Courses cost \$143 a credit, and there are three-week sessions as well as longer ones. The last session this summer runs from August 3 to 27."

"A room in a student house would cost you \$325 for a month, or a high-rise apartment with views



Kermit receives an honorary American doctorate. The college can be great fun also for British students

around the island \$1,100 — which is still cheap for this location."

America is your oyster — provided you have a visa and the imagination to put together the perfect programme, location and institution.

• The North American Association of Summer Schools will send you a membership directory for the cost of postage (send a postal order or cheque for \$5 or equivalent made out to NAASS to: Michael Nelson, Executive Secretary, 43 Belanger Drive, Dover, New Hampshire 03820-6022, United States, requesting one, or access NAASS's website at www.naass.org).

• The Council for International Exchange, at 52 Poland Street, London W1V 4JQ (Tel: 0171-683 2034; Fax: 0171-734 7323), represents a number of colleges and universities, primarily in California and the Western US.

• For information on the Harvard Summer School Programme, contact Peter Buck on tel: 001 617-495 2941; For Columbia University (New York), Curiale Stacie on 001 212 854 3771; for NYU: Kenneth Hexwood on 001 212 995 2309; • Southampton College's Summer Sessions office is at 001 516 287 5349; the University of Hawaii on 001 808 236 3300; and the University of California at Berkeley on 001 510 642 5611/2.

Boom in Britain

BRITISH universities are more than confident of holding their own in the summer schools market. More campuses are open to outsiders this year and the range of courses is growing all the time.

More than 30 institutions now belong to the British Universities Accommodation Consortium, most offering individual lets as well as conference facilities. With university budgets under increasing pressure, the business has become an essential part of the campus budget. Warwick University won this year's Academic Venue of the Year award, with Keele and Nottingham runners-up.

Warwick's hospitality services department employs 480 full-time and 100 part-time staff to cater for more than 300 conferences a year. The choices of summer school this year include a number of Oxbridge colleges and popular leisure destinations such as Exeter University,

which arranges a variety of special-interest holidays including an "off-road safari" on Dartmoor.

Strathclyde and York are the latest universities to join the Summer Academy programme, which now offers almost 100 courses at 14 locations. Most of the courses run in July and August, but a few programmes begin this weekend.

St Andrews, Sheffield and Stirling universities are among those offering an early start. Stirling has courses on bagpipes and the clarsach, among its more distinctive programmes; while Sheffield's includes the stately homes of Derbyshire and Victorian narrative poetry; and St Andrews lowland hill walking and Middle Eastern civilisation.

• The Summer Academy is run from Keynes College, Kent University, Canterbury (01227-870402). Information on other university courses and holidays: BUAC, PO Box 1628, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD (0115-950-4571)

The courses that can put you on course for a job

The optimism of graduates about employment is influenced by the university and subjects studied

The economic boom has led to a record number of students expecting to find jobs when they graduate this summer, but many a survey this week reveals, believe that their degree course will be of little help in getting into their chosen career.

Almost 50 per cent of students thought that they would immediately get a graduate job, an increase of 7 per cent from last year and the highest figure for a decade. However, their confidence depended heavily on the course they took: only 19 per cent of arts students were sure that they would find work compared with more than 60 per cent of computer students.

Three per cent of arts students actually thought their degree would worsen their prospects in the job market.

Optimism also related to university. Far from brimming with self-esteem after three years at the leading universities, only 45 per cent of finalists from Oxford or Cambridge thought that they would get jobs. This compared to 69 per cent of the students at Aston University and 62 per cent at Strathclyde.

The high profile of rapidly expanding markets such as management consultancy and marketing has attracted the most student applications, and left such vocational careers as the police and teaching training behind even sales work.

Even among school-leavers this year, many are choosing degrees that will help their

career prospects within these new markets. Applications to universities for marketing, computer science and software engineering have increased by up to 20 per cent since 1997. Meanwhile, applications to nursing courses, primary education and general studies have fallen by more than 15 per cent.

High Fliers Research carried out its survey of more than 10,000 finalists from 22 traditional universities. In an ideal world, the BBC was named as offering the dream job, with the United Nations and the Civil Service next in line. This compared to the companies felt to offer the best career opportunities, led by Andersen Consulting and Arthur Andersen, while the BBC ranked eighteenth.

Another survey by Universities 2000 found that after three years of financial hardship students were heading for jobs in big banks, such as the Swiss Bank Corporation and Merrill Lynch, which have both soared in popularity with graduates.

Its survey found British Airways the company most graduates would like to work for. Even the World Cup may have influenced students looking for work, but not towards the sports field. Coca-Cola, one of the main sponsors of this summer's tournament, has jumped from being the 203rd most favoured employer, to fourth.

VICTORIA FLETCHER

TOP TEN GRADUATE EMPLOYERS

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Andersen Consulting | 7. Unilever |
| 2. Arthur Andersen | 8. KPMG |
| 3. Procter & Gamble | 9. Price Waterhouse |
| 4. Marks & Spencer | 10. British Airways |
| 5. Civil Service | |
| 6. Boots | Source: High Fliers Research Survey |

EDUCATION

Back to school — or a time to slack?

Thousands of teenagers who have barely scribbled the final words on their last examination paper will soon be faced with another difficult question — what do we do now? The trend to release GCSE and A-level candidates from any need to return to school also creates a dilemma: deciding how long a well-earned rest should last before it turns into a waste of time.

Many parents who, when they were young, were dragged back into class until the very end of term are at a loss about how to advise their offspring. For some, there is the sense of being short-changed by the school; for others, the more practical problem of dealing with a teenager whose normal summer holiday span may in effect have doubled.

One parent threatened even to withhold fees for last year's summer term. (Eventually, of course, he had to pay.) David Woodhead, the Independent Schools Information Service national director, says: "Fees are calculated on an annual basis; they are split into three terms only for convenience. Parents are not charged more for the longer autumn term."

Dylan William, Head of the School of Education at King's College London, believes that some schools run pre-sixth form courses partly to offset this criticism. For others, however, this would be pointless because a lot of fifth years are leaving to go to sixth-form college.

Dr William thinks that there is a real need for pupils to relax after examinations. "The trouble is," he says, "that no one knows how long that should be because it varies from individual to individual. Some kids bounce back after a week, others need longer. But if they vegetate for 12 weeks, they will find getting back hard."

Dr William says that future sixth-formers are well advised to start reading around their intended subjects. But he adds: "Parental pressure is fairly unproductive; it merely makes the child resentful. To get good A-level grades, you have to like learning. If you're so turned off that you no longer want to study, you won't do so well."

Elizabeth Hartley-Brewer, author of *Motivating Your Child*, says: "Children deserve 'pooling time' — a period doing nothing much, just like everyone else. But parents often fear that the whole summer will be wasted. Parents, especially if they're out working, may also worry if they don't know what their kids are up to — but nagging and snooping will do no good for that relationship."

"Once a child's head has cleared, it's not a bad idea to sit down and look at the

A levels are over, children are waiting for results. So what next? Liz Gill gets expert advice



with work, but perhaps with sport or other activities."

Within both the private and state sectors, there is a wide variety of policies: some schools actively encourage pupils to leave, others have a more laissez faire attitude, yet another group lays on a variety of other activities. At Tonbridge School in Kent, where 60 per cent of the 700 boys are boarders, upper sixth-formers can take a few days' break before returning for the final week and the buildup to prizegiving on the last day of term. During that week there will be sports fixtures, orchestra and choir rehearsals and leavers' barbecues.

GCSE boys may go home for a few days, but must then return for a schedule, which includes Duke of Edinburgh Award activities, a typing course, a Pilgrims' Way walk to Canterbury and, for the first time this year, an A-level induction course.

Peter Comings, the Second Master, says: "We used to have games and films and we are trying to do something a bit more constructive this year. They'll have had the chance to release any high spirits at home and then there'll be what we hope is a mixture of a pretty serious course and a nice time. And of course they also want to be with their friends."

At Archbishop Beck Roman Catholic High School in Liverpool, whose 1,400 pupils make it one of the largest in the city, both leavers and continuers are welcome after the exams but under no obligation. Tony Hardman, the Head-teacher, thinks that would be futile. "They've just been through a stressful time," he explains. "What should we be asking them to do and how on earth would we police it? I know that some parents want their children kept at school, but then, some parents would love me to mind their kids 24 hours a day. A double period of technical drawing in full uniform? There'd be a rebellion and you'd lose all the good will that exists at this time of year."

If they're coming back to school in September, you can give them reading lists or schemes of work to do at home and they can start developing self-directed study. But if they're not, they're better off looking at the job market. Even a reasonable temporary job, in which they can impress with good character and reliability, can often turn into something permanent. Besides, these kids are demob-happy. They would be very negative role models for the year below."

• The Summer Academy programme is based at Keynes College, University of Kent, Canterbury (01227-870402).

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Virginia Matthews reports on a worrying proliferation of awareness weeks

Britain's 375-plus "awareness" campaigns for everything from cystic fibrosis and breast cancer to neighbourhood watch schemes and toe health are to face official registration from this week in an attempt to keep them under control.

Campaign organisers, worried that manufacturers and marketing firms are "hijacking" what started 40 years ago as a fundraising tool for charities and voluntary organisations, are to compile a national register of such events.

They say they want to prevent not only what they call awareness-campaign overlap — where serious and more lighthearted events compete for media attention — but more importantly, to overcome compassion fatigue among the public.

By the time this month ends, it will have seen — unless there were last-minute cancellations — 56 awareness campaigns, 11 of which were due to start on the same day. They include Spinal Injuries Awareness Week, National Deaf-Blind Awareness Week, National Osteoporosis Week, the Sun Awareness Week and the Don't Choke Britain appeal, which includes National Car-Free Day.

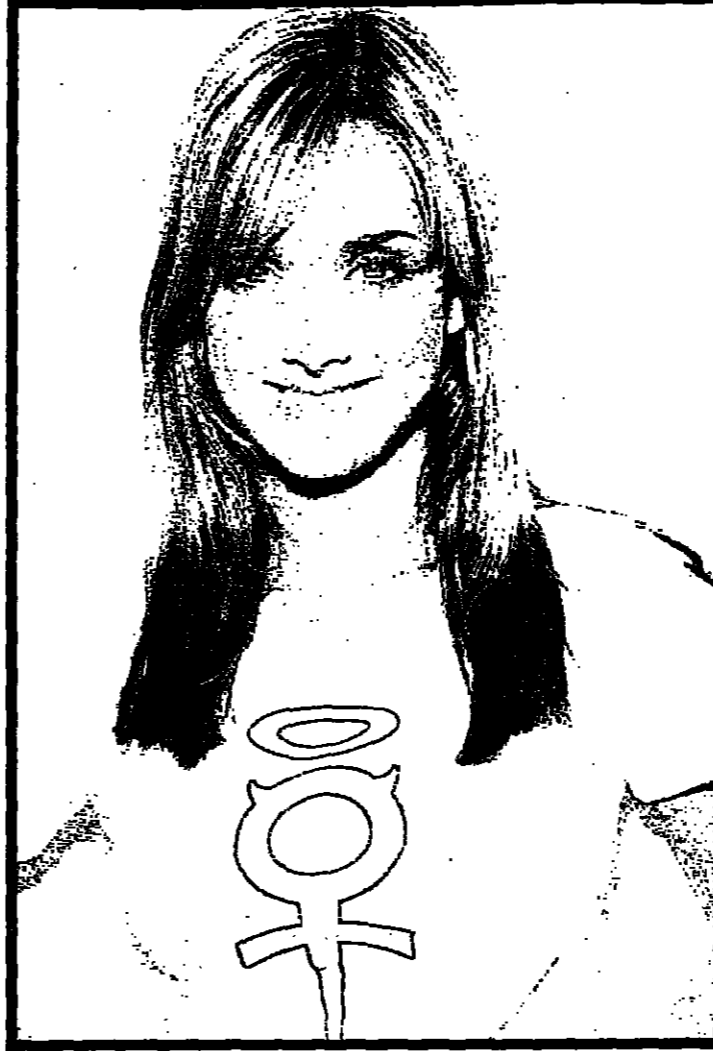
What may be of even more concern, according to Robert Barclay, the managing director of the Profile Group, a specialist events information firm that will compile the new register, is what he calls "the increasing involvement of marketers who are in the awareness game for blatantly commercial reasons and who are attracting all the publicity at the expense of the voluntary sector."

He cites the Breast Cancer Awareness Month organised by a number of breast cancer charities, including Breakthrough, during which Playtex held Wonderbra Awareness Day, an event that spawned "hundreds of column inches about breasts, together with thousands of pictures of cleavages", but very little serious debate about the realities of breast cancer.

Barclay believes that it would be impossible, without government support, to "ban" the more frivolous awareness days — which could be said to include the McVities-sponsored Biscuit Dunking Day or



Hello boys... but has Wonderbra, left, neglected the real message of Breakthrough's breast cancer awareness campaign, right



How aware can you get?

Denplan's National Kissing Day. But he decries the advent of some newer awareness events such as Flea Awareness Week, World Phone in Sick Day or National Kevin Day, which was hailed in a press release as "a celebration of the qualities associated with this glorious first name".

In the United States, awareness events designed for publicity or for fundraising purposes are strictly limited.

Barclay says: "Awareness campaigns are not a new idea; the first one took place in 1957 for Christian Aid. But in the past year alone, the number of campaigns has increased by 72 per cent, and we believe that there needs to be regulation and control of this loose-cannon sector. Ideally, there should

be no more than 365 awareness days, 52 awareness weeks or 12 awareness months. Any more than that and the public turns off."

The new register will not only coordinate and pump out advance publicity to news organisations about future awareness campaigns, but will bring charities together with would-be sponsors who, given half a chance, would foot much of the publicity bill.

Profile reckons that rather than working in isolation and often opposition to one another, charities and marketers in the same fields would be better off joining forces on an awareness campaign, to the benefit of both sides.

The new register has already

received the endorsement of voluntary organisations, including the British Red Cross, the Stroke Association and the Terrence Higgins Trust, all of which have feared that over-use of awareness events could be damaging their own campaigns.

Profile would like to set strict criteria for who can and who cannot run awareness campaigns — just as the United Nations does for organisations wanting to launch world day events, but it does not believe this is possible at the moment.

Barclay adds: "If a company making widgets wants to launch Widget Awareness Week, there is nothing we can do at present to stop them."

Though National Bed Month

and British Tie Week may have altered the British public's understanding of the meaning of awareness events, charities continue to find them an important weapon in their fundraising and lobbying armoury. Age Concern's annual campaign, for example, will again take off in September. Nicky Philpott, the campaigns manager, says: "With increased competition for attention among those in the voluntary sector for their various issues, the register will enable them to maximise the publicity that is so crucial in keeping a campaign in the minds of decision-makers."

Barclay says: "Awareness weeks are still able to highlight important issues. What we need to do in order to raise their stature is to run an awareness campaign about them."

Internet crosses Arabs' red line

The crowd in the hotel bar watching Shearer and Scholes defeat Tunisia was definitely on the small side but was passionately committed nonetheless. The bar was in the Commodore Hotel in Beirut, the hotel that was home to many journalists during the Lebanese civil war. Beside me in armchairs before the television set was a British Airways crew, Ramadan al Rawashdeh, a Jordanian journalist, and Tudor Lomas of the BBC.

Lomas runs the Gemstone project, an European Union-funded initiative to bring together journalists from Europe and the east Mediterranean and Arab world. A series of Gemstone seminars on the future of the media in the Arab world was temporarily suspended for the World Cup kick-off.

The games delivered by satellite are just one small example of how television links audiences around the world. The communications revolution commonplace in the West is being matched in the Arab world, with many of the same problems, and also with unpredictable consequences for freedom of expression.

In October, as digital television gets under way in Britain, Nile TV in Egypt launches seven channels of digital including Nile News, a 24-hour television news channel. The pay channels are seen as an attempt to lure the Egyptian elite away from CNN and Middle East Broadcasting, from London.

Arab journalists point out that the channels will be government controlled. "There is complete freedom of the press in Egypt but you pay the price for what you print," says an Egyptian journalist. Four of his colleagues are at present in jail.

In Jordan, Arabia on Line, founded in 1995, has become the biggest Internet publisher in the

Arab world, linking Arabs internationally. The authorities can create laws requiring anyone starting a newspaper to have capital of at least one million Jordanian dollars but they have not begun to get to grips, in legislative terms, with the Internet.

Arabia on Line has the same problem as Internet publishers everywhere — how to make money. At the moment the company makes ends meet by designing websites for others.

You don't have to talk long to Arab journalists, who care passionately about extending freedom of the press, before the concept of the "red line" arises. There are red lines everywhere, most of them informal, that it is unwise or even unsafe to cross. Self-censorship is the order of the day.

Criticism of the wrong people can lead to fines or the closure of newspapers. Even in the relatively liberal Lebanon, a metaphorical reference to King Fahd's role as protector of the Islamic holy places in Saudi Arabia as

being like that of a Sri Lankan housekeeper brought a \$35,000 fine, although the accompanying two-month prison sentence was overturned on appeal.

As the Lebanese writer Maaz Bashour put it in a talk to the Gemstone group: "It's not so much red lines as green, amber and red traffic signals that change all the time in unpredictable ways."

The real hope is that digital satellite television, the Internet and fibre-optic cable networks will increasingly deliver more than football for the masses, however much Governments try to control them. The new technologies of communication will almost certainly accelerate social change in the Arab world, and as journalists push at the boundaries of what is acceptable, the red lines may at last start to retreat.



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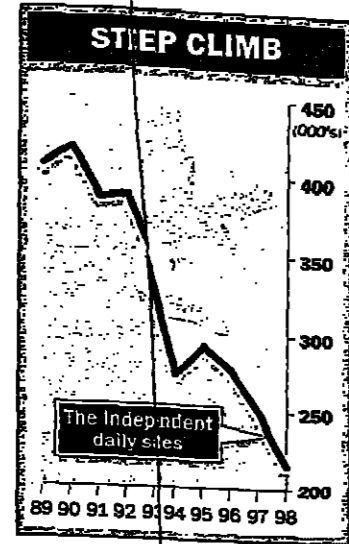
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The Independent has a mountain to conquer



Study the chart to the left and the size of the mountain Simon Kelner, the new Editor of *The Independent*, has to climb is as big as Mount Everest. His is the greatest challenge in British national newspapers. Arriving as the sixth editor within seven years last month, Kelner found a demoralised and routed army. Journalists had been massacred in what the former editor Ian Hargreaves recently described as an "editorial abattoir" where even the library had been sold.

Tony O'Reilly, chairman of the Independent Newspaper Group of Ireland, now full owner of *The Independent*, faces as great a challenge as Kelner. His newspaper empire is dominant in the Irish Republic, South Africa and New

Zealand but he has not until now been tested in the cut-throat British national newspaper market. So he will not want egg on his face at *The Independent*, his worldwide calling card. He has started by investing an extra £5 million on the editorial budget and another £2-£3 million on extra pagination. Kelner's staff of 245 will be boosted to 286.

Arresting decline demands heroic effort and managerial commitment but it can be achieved, as the experience of *The Sun*, *Daily Mail* and *The Times* shows. Critics who question his credentials say that Kelner's main experience until now has been in sport and



most recently as editor of the *Mail on Sunday* magazine *Night & Day*. That is why reaction to his appointment was snobbish and patronising. He was described as a rough diamond who liked long lunches, a hard-drinking, lecherous northerner and, even worse, a sports journalist.

Yet his one-time editor at *The Observer*, Donald Treford, says the critics have under-rated his commitment to serious journalism

and his strengths of energy, directness, intellectual curiosity, presentational skills, sharp eye for good and bad writing and intuitive understanding of a good story.

Kelner identified two serious problems with the paper he inherited — its design was an impediment to urgent-looking news pages and its second tabloid section was weak and unfocused. So within a month he has redesigned the paper.

He has opted to return to first principles and *The Independent* now uncannily resembles the launch paper of 1986. Against the modern trend, he has converted the second section from a tabloid

to a hefty broadsheet. The news section has also been plumped up: yesterday's paper had 32 news pages, a 24-page Review section and a 16-page Education section. It is now the only national daily where leading articles, opinion and comment have been separated from the news section.

Professional designers have been critical, accusing Kelner of being unoriginal and unadventurous. His new paper was the "same old mosaic with conflicting rectangles", said Edwin Taylor, once designer of Harold Evans's *Sunday Times*. He looked better only because it looked familiar, added David Driver, head of design at *The Times*. It was a pot pourri which failed to give *The Independent* its own identity. Kelner

argues that he has simply returned to what made the paper successful when it started and that there is no point in trying to reinvent the art of journalism.

Whatever the designers think, among journalists the redesign has won that grudgingly respectful accolade of "not bad" and "quite good", which means they think Kelner has done a good job. Even Stephen Glover, one of the three original founders of *The Independent*, has conceded that it is an "accomplished" relaunch.

Kelner's reward was an encouraging lift in sales last week of about 7,500 a day to 225,000 — but *The Guardian* is ahead by 176,000 a day and *The Times* by 530,000. That mountain still looks very steep.



Paul Jackson: "If it looks like a traditional sitcom, viewers are not prepared to even give it a first look"

Television sitcoms? Don't make us laugh

Laughter makes the world go round. And British television prides itself on keeping its customers entertained. It has created a range of lovable monsters from Basil Fawlty and Mr Bean to Gordon Brittas and Hyacinth Bucket.

Which is why there is so much riding on Paul Jackson, the fast-talking controller of BBC entertainment, a newly created department bringing together 400 producers across television and radio. Jackson's problem, one shared with ITV, is that many of the traditional formats along with some stars, are losing their mass market magic.

Faced with such realities, ITV and BBC1 have recently taken drastic action. ITV simply stopped screening its latest series of *Holden the Baby*, a sitcom about a new man who is a lone parent, because of its poor ratings. BBC1, meanwhile, shunted its sports sitcom *A Prince Among Men*, built around nasty sports commentator Gary Prince, to a soft Sunday spot.

BBC1 has also had disappointing audiences for comedies judged critical hits and worth a second run, such as *Roger, Roger* (written by John Sullivan, the creator of *Only Fools and Horses*) and *Kiss Me Kate*, starring Caroline Quentin.

Then there is the search for mainstream entertainers. Channel 4's *Heroes of Comedy*, with compilations of Tommy Cooper and Norman Wisdom material, has neatly underlined the fact that modern popular comic talent lies thin on the ground. Too few of the alternative comedians of the 1980s, many of whom Paul Jackson worked with, have moved across. New hits such as Alan Partridge belong to niches.

Jackson, a hustling figure in shirt sleeves and red braces, says: "I'd be a fool if I sat here and pretended there wasn't a difficulty with traditional situation comedy. The public is just voting with their switches. If it looks like a traditional sitcom they are just not prepared to even give it a first look. The audience has given us a clear steer, but it's only really become apparent this year."

Maggie Brown meets Paul Jackson, the man who has the job of finding a way to restore a smile to the BBC

He puts this down to changed viewing habits, rather than any loss of humour. "Family viewing is all but dead," he says. And there is boredom with the traditional domestic "young couple in new love nest format". He also says that something called defraction is going on.

Defraction? Jackson explains that talented writers and performers — such as Ben Elton, Richard Curtis, Jennifer Saunders, Dawn French, Rowan Atkinson, Angus Deayton and the like — are presented with so many glittering opportunities, including Hollywood films, books and West End plays, that they can pick and choose.

So what is Jackson's solution? "We have to move away from the things people are telling us they don't want and use talent in a different way." He says that writers and performers had already spotted the trend.

So he reasons, big audiences will turn on for *The Vicar of Dibley* for three reasons: they trust its star Dawn French; they like the Oxfordshire village setting and Richard Curtis who devised *Four Weddings and a Funeral* writes very good jokes.

Likewise, they will watch *The Thin Blue Line*, a Ben Elton-scripted police comedy, with Rowan Atkinson and a strong supporting cast. The BBC's problem lies in cajoling another series from "resting" multi-millionaire Atkinson.

And *A Prince Among Men*? "We just got it wrong. Creating comic monsters is an extremely difficult art. The trouble with Gary is that the public just thought he was a

nasty job and said we just don't want to watch you."

Jackson is trying to extend the *Vicar of Dibley* formula by signing up the comic Victoria Wood to star in a sitcom about dinner ladies.

In many ways Jackson, 50, is an old-fashioned comedy producer. His critics believe that this may be a handicap in trying to move things forward. But his supporters say he has a very good sense of what will work in a mass market.

He could be said to have entertainment in his blood. His father, T. Leslie Jackson, was a leading light entertainment producer in the formative years of television. As a small boy, Jackson Jr even visited the head of light entertainment's office at Television Centre, the office he now occupies.

After a brief acting career, he trained from 1970 onwards as a floor manager-producer with the BBC, and made his name producing *The Two Ronnies*. In the 1980s, as an independent producer, he was heaped with awards for *The Young Ones*, *Three of a Kind*, and the BBC's cult sci-fi sitcom, *Red Dwarf* — recently successfully revived.

But he has also been a corporate man: he spent a brief, none-too-happy period as Carlton Television's first director of programmes/managing director between 1993 and 1995 before pitching up at the BBC, which he has always regarded as his home.

He has managed to retain his quickfire wit through it all. At the recent Eurovision Song Contest, overseen by his department, he fearlessly went on to the giant stage before it began, as the warm-up

man, and had the audience in stitches.

As with Michael Grade, he is a man who understands how to reel in the stars. Although he claims he was misquoted two months ago, about wanting to bring back End of the Pier-style variety shows to television, he firmly believes that a new generation will rediscover the joys of old-fashioned variety shows, if they can be reworked. He has set a leading producer on to the *Royal Variety Show* format to give it a "21st-century spin".

He believes that variety could exert the same "hot and happening" hold that the reinvented celebrity quiz (*They Think It's All Over, Have I Got News For You*) has displayed in the 1990s.

Plans are also well-advanced for a spectacular Lenny Henry Saturday night show, starting in the autumn. Jackson has also signed French and Saunders for a new series of their sketch shows, while Dawn French is going to revive *Murder Most Horrible*.



In part, this search for hits is why the BBC has drawn together all its entertainment talent in one big production department: the message seems to be that nothing is sacred, that cross-genre mixes are to be encouraged, while ideas from radio such as *Goodness Gracious Me* and *In The Red* or comedy hybrids such as *Jonathan Creek* can all be attempted. The department also encompasses musical entertainment for the first time.

And then there is the problem of Noel's *House Party*, which has to be repackaged for the autumn. "We need to sit down, look at the tapes and the audience research. Commonsense tells you that somewhere it has lost its conviction and excitement. Mr Blooby was the *Teletubbies* of his time. Has Mr Blooby seen his best years? I don't know the answer. But we are asking. And that could sum up the kind of bigger question which is now stalking the BBC's entertainment department.

A lifetime of e-mail for hacks

JOURNALISTS are about to be offered free e-mail addresses for life by Fleet Street Online, an Internet company that provides a comprehensive index of all online newspapers and magazines.

The aim is to encourage public relations firms to pay a subscription to publish their press releases directly onto the Online site, from which journalists will be able to extract information.

Within the next two months the Online group will set up a keyword search system so that journalists are automatically e-mailed with releases in which they are likely to be interested.

The company points out that although journalists may have e-mail addresses at work, they tend to be "a transient bunch", which makes it hard for PR companies to keep track of them. So Fleet Street Online is living away what are, in effect, additional, permanent and secure e-mail addresses.

Christopher Dixon, the managing director of Fleet Street Online, said yesterday: "For the journalists, it is rather like having a lifetime telephone number. The only difference is that our e-mail service to them is completely free."

The company is developing systems that will allow journalists to pick up their e-mails from any PC. The software will make it possible for PR firms to tell how many journalists have called up a press release.

Mr Dixon says Fleet Street Online is also planning to develop "story profiling" for journalists to help them to keep track of where their articles have appeared. Each day the system will read the content of every online newspaper or magazine linked to their site. If the system finds a journalist's article, an e-mail will automatically be sent telling them where it appeared.

Des Lynam scores with his canary yellows

■ I PRIDE myself on a football-free life. Yet I'm watching the World Cup. The men who schedule BBC1 and ITV confirm I'm part of a national trend. Much to their surprise, audiences since the World Cup began are more than 2.5 million bigger overall than normal, and are rising as the event gathers pace. Nor are they getting as many complaints as expected from women about the way the non-football bits, such as the soaps, are being moved around.

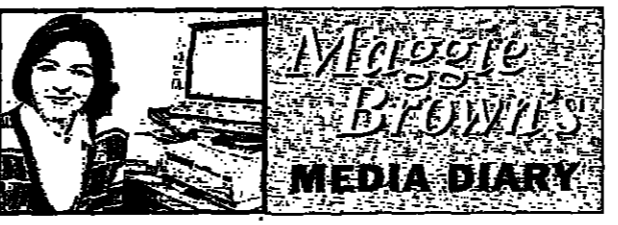
Even obscure matches without obvious interest to Britain are attracting eight to ten million viewers, far more than expected and well up on Euro 96, while England's first match on Monday took 85 per cent of all viewing. "People have really got the bug," says Adam MacDonald, BBC1's scheduler — though record rainfall is playing a part as well as Des Lynam's feigning canary-yellow trousers. Bad news for minority channels. The question now is whether, in the face of so much interest, the current system of alternating matches between ITV and BBC1 will extend beyond the present round. It's quite possible that the gentleman's agreement will crack. (MediaWatch, page 45)

■ THE MOST interesting newspaper treatment of Britain's football hooligans? My honours go to the *Daily Mail*, which tracked down the families and employers of some of the men concerned, and showed their domestic roots in semi-detached, provincial Britain. After all the demonising, naming, shaming and moralising from tabloids and columnists, the *Mail's* coverage points to a more unpleasant truth: these are ordinary blokes acting horribly out of character.

■ ANXIOUS days for *The Sporting Life*, the defunct racing paper supposed to be relaunching in October to cover all sports. It was being nursed into new life by Kelvin MacKenzie, departed deputy chief executive of the *Mirror* Group. But I am told that David Montgomery, whose coup in absorbing the rival *Racing Post* last December underpins the relaunch, is truly committed to the project, hence the current raft of job

Des Lynam scores with his canary yellows

adverts. At *Mirror* Group they are praying that MacKenzie, who is known to think a sporting paper has true potential, succeeds in his bid for Talk Radio. And is not tempted to muscle into the sports-paper market, too.



■ CONFUSION at *The Mail on Sunday*. The editor of the highly rated *Night & Day* review section reported directly to Sir David English who, as Editor-in-Chief, thought it all up in the first place. Now that English is dead there is no successor and no *Night & Day* editor either, since Simon Kelner departed to oversee a brilliant relaunch of *The Independent* (his deputy, unwell, does not want the job).

■ RICHARD ADDIS, former Editor of *The Express*, is toying with starting a new monthly general interest magazine. Like many ex-newspaper executives in these hire-and-fire days, he is seeking to

be in control of something. He's even hoping that Lord Holford might divert some of his severance pay from the *Express* into the project. Give the man a chance of freedom.

■ BRITAIN'S most distinguished history programme maker, Laurence Rees, is awarded — a Rocky from Canada's Banff TV festival — for his snarling BBC2 series, *The Nazis — A Warning From History*. Rees was heavily wooed by Michael Jackson, the Channel 4 chief executive, because the BBC's new funding deal for documentaries with Discovery of the United States put a big questionmark over the future of Euro-centred history series. But Rees has been accommodated. He is to make a follow-up, a grim four-parter on some of the most brutal battles of the Second World War, those on the eastern front between Stalin and Hitler. Mark Thompson, the controller of BBC2, is fully funding it and has won the war for Rees.

■ ALL television channels recently sent their top executives to Hollywood for the annual LA screenings at which they assess and bid for new American series. It's where the *Ally McBeal's* abound. But as head Dromgoole, Channel 4's new June of acquisition, confirms: "It

has not been a breakthrough year." Britain has not been buying. ITV was looking for a Saturday daytime series, along the lines of *Superman*, but came away empty handed, and so did the BBC. Channel 4, under pressure to cut US imports, bought just one thing. *Sut And The City* is a frank look at the New York dating scene. It has a real Channel 4 feel, says Dromgoole.

■ I TOOK tea this week, at the house of the US Ambassador, Philip Lader, with the legendary Jack Valenti, chairman of the Motion Pictures Association, which lobbies tirelessly for the big American studios. Valenti, who was in the fatal motorcade in Dallas on the day President Kennedy was shot, was eager to airbrush memories of his previous visit to Europe in the 1990s to lobby against restrictions on US films. "I don't want to be like a Bourbon king, always knowing where I'd come from but never where I was going. The last Gatt trade round in 1993 belongs to the Mesozoic past," he observed. "It didn't even mention the Internet or digital revolution."

■ LORD PUTNAM, the film producer, acknowledges press reports that some in the BBC hierarchy have been conspiring against him as prospective deputy chairman of the BBC but adds, trustingly, that it has all been denied. Putnam will set out his vision for the BBC at an interview scheduled for July 1.

IN an article in the *Media Times* of May 8, we erroneously attributed a quote to Tim Allen, former aide to Tony Blair, in which he referred to his knowledge of "Whitehall's pressure points". This remark was, in fact, made by George Bridges, the former aide to John Major.

Schoolgirls bump into Tony Blair



The Urusline schoolgirls pose for a photograph with Prime Minister Tony Blair.

■ AT LAST signs of an intelligent reaction to *The Guardian's* exposure of dodgy standards in two Carlton Television documentaries. This week Tom Gutteridge, Royal Television Society council member and chief executive of one of the UK's largest independent companies, Mentorn Barraclough Carey, was rallying documentary producers to address the reduction of budgets, pressure for ratings and the undermining of standards. George Carey, a former BBC producer, is likely to play a key role. It is certainly a healthier way to proceed than attacking newspapers for hanging out TV's dirty washing. But will Carlton play a part? "There is no one from Carlton, they are only a small producer," says Gutteridge.

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Wooing the women of LA

A strategy to win minority readers has infuriated journalists, reports Susan Ellicott

Los Angeles has a worldwide reputation for compelling media stories, including the O.J. Simpson trial and the city riots of 1992. Yet its only general newspaper, the *Los Angeles Times*, like many other American metropolitan dailies, is losing readers.

Mark Willes, its publisher, thinks he has an answer. Last month, in an interview with *The Wall Street Journal*, he revealed a plan to increase his group's coverage of women and ethnic minorities. He added that journalists should woo more female readers by making news coverage "more emotional, more personal, less analytical".

This may sound innocent to anyone unfamiliar with American race and gender politics. But Willes might as well have handed his head to his newsroom on a platter. *Journalists on the Times*, America's second-largest metropolitan daily and the flagship of the Times Mirror Co. of which Willes is chairman, exploded at what sounded like a quota system for sources. Other critics have seized on his proposals as an example of mushy-minded liberalism.

"It's already the most politically correct paper in the country," says Scott Shuger, a columnist who covers American newspapers for *State*, an online magazine. Willes is in effect, he says, letting circulation departments tell journalists what distribution of quotes should go into a story, and that "spells trouble for the truth".

At a staff meeting convened by Willes after his remarks were published, many reporters were furious that he was considering linking the pay of editors to how effective their reporters were in meeting his goals. But Willes held firm. One reporter quoted him as saying: "If I have made you uncomfortable, I apologise. But if I have made you do things differently, then I am glad."

Other big papers have tried in the past to impose quotas for ethnic sources but, like *USA Today*, a national daily with a circulation of more than 1.7 million, they have



The polyglot young of Los Angeles: can the *LA Times* reach them by introducing quotas for coverage of women and ethnic minorities?

abandoned them as impractical. How, for instance, does a reporter tactfully ask someone being interviewed over the telephone to identify their ethnicity?

From a business standpoint, changes could make sense. Polls for the paper have shown that female readers prefer emotion to analysis in articles. Willes cites the positive response last year to a series about the children of drug addicts written in heart-rending style.

He also says that an internal study of recent bylines, photos, quotes and sources shows that the paper does not reflect the city's cultural diversity fairly. "People want to feel the paper's theirs," he told the *Journal*. "They can't do that if it's a fundamentally white-male newspaper." But detractors say he is motivated more by profit than a wish to increase diversity because it is "right". Hence

the newsroom backlash. If Willes really wants to make the newspaper reflect its community, some suggest, he should start by ensuring that its largely white staff reflects the city's polyglot profile. "It's an absolute shame that the newspaper has yet to sort out how to hire people who match the city," says Hector Tobbar, the only Latino general news reporter on the staff. "It goes beyond the political correct — it's just wrong that they only have me."

Willes knows he has to do something to attract new readers. Ideally, his target audience is the rapidly expanding Latino population, who will soon make up more than half of the 16 million residents of greater Los Angeles but account for only 20 per cent of *Times* readers. He has said he hopes to add an additional 500,000 sales to the paper's average daily weekday circulation of almost 1.1

million. Yet the newspaper, which considers itself to be a paper of record, is difficult to sell to the fast-growing immigrant Latino community, many of whose members regard it as too intellectual and liberal.

Josephine Ramirez, a Latino academic at The Getty Research Institute for the History of Art and the Humanities, is cynical about Willes's proposals. "The paper is this corporate-owned and operated machine. What will change it will be the rise of Latinos in places of authority."

The paper does, however, make an effort to reflect the area's ethnic mix. Saturday's editorial page, for instance, carries a section called *Voices: A Forum for Community Issues*, with photo-captions of commentators.

Critics of the *Times* say that Willes could improve circulation by improv-

ing its writing, especially in sport and art, where it is seriously outclassed by *The New York Times*. Many readers complain the multi-section paper is too bulky and that its arts coverage is too soft on Hollywood.

So how have existing readers reacted to Willes's proposals? One, a legal secretary in her fifties, told a *Times* reporter at Frank Sinatra's funeral last month that she found Willes's plan to appeal to women "patronising". Margaret Koval, a documentary producer, fears that goals for ethnic sources could "stereotype people's opinions".

But, amid the furor, Leo Wolinsky, the managing editor, says he has not received "much, if any, response at all" from readers or community leaders. Which is hardly surprising, since the paper has not yet written about the publisher's plans — and is unlikely to do so.

Options on a shopping spree

Carol Midgley on a magazine revamped for the retail junkie

Imagine setting up a magazine that you admit is geared to feeding the habits of the alcoholic or heroin addict. Consider the outrage as you run articles headlined "Get a quicker hit by mixing brandy, Babycham and lighter fuel".

Options magazine has, nevertheless, relaunched this month with the breezy rider that it is aimed at the shopaholic. Turn inside the July edition and see pages of bargains and must-buys — the equivalent, surely, of giving someone with a drink problem the catalogue from Oddbins.

Options targets the sort of woman who likes spending Saturdays on her knees scrabbling through the bargain bins in the basement of Selfridges, or elbowing fellow shoppers out of the way as she charges like a bull down Oxford Street. According to Lesley Johnston, the Editor, the new-look *Options* from IPC is much more focused on becoming the shopaholic's bible.

It is, she claims, the last word in shopping expertise, with snazzier pictures and an approach that says "let's not take life too seriously". Hence this month's article on sunbats is headlined "I don't give a f---"

Ms Johnston, who cites her own main pastime as retail therapy, says: "We are aimed at those women who like to spend their leisure time in the mall. It is for that 98 per cent of us who love those warehouse sales and a bit of self-indulgence. We have upped the ante and really gone for it. I like to think we're a normal person's *Vogue*."

But, unlike in *Vogue*, you will not see any picture captions on its fashion pages saying "shoes — model's own" or "top — as before". Ms Johnston says: "I hate it when I read that. If you like the shoes, you want to know where to buy them, not that they belong; to somebody else. And when you see 'as before', well, it's just a wasted opportunity. I would rather see another top than the same one twice."

Regular readers of *Options* might have noticed it slipping into mundanity of late. Sales are at a sluggish 127,000 a month but with its new look, the magazine aims to hit 200,000 by the middle of next year.

Ms Johnston, the former Editor of the teenage magazine *Mix*, says: "I wasn't clear who it was aimed at any more. Women these days are putting off having families until later. They have careers and more money to spend and we are not going to make them feel guilty about spending it."



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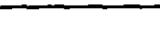
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Successful ads live to fight another day

■ "SUCCESS has many fathers, failure is a bastard" is an aphorism that goes a long way towards explaining the ad industry. It applies to such matters as who had what idea first, or who really wrote the Wonderbra campaign — and the hundreds of people who worked on Levi's or Hamlet. Plagiarism in advertising is a hot potato usually best given a miss. Most times the argument goes no further than piqued letters to *Campaign* from advertising old laws, claiming to have written the same ad years earlier.

When it involves other media or art forms, the subject can take on almost farcical dimensions involving heated claim and counterclaim and threats of legal action. Usually there's small change of proof. Current ad campaigns such as Stella Artois borrow shamelessly from the *Jean de Florette/Manon des Sources* movies; Nissan Micra pays homage to *Patty Blue*; Peugeot parodies *Thelma and Louise*. It's not controversial. But, for example, the *Idler* magazine (motto: "For those who live to loaf") took offence at the new Strongbow campaign starring Johnnie Vaughan (tagline: "Live to loaf"), not because of the quality of the ads, but because the agency didn't ask first.

Gillian Wearing, the Turner Prize-winning artist, however, has gone a stage further in resorting to legal threats, claiming that BMP DDB ripped off her work in its new VW Golf commercials. These feature characters holding up placards with messages that make statements contrary to the impression received from screen. Wearing claims that this uses an idea from her project "Signs", which involved taking photographs of people in the street, who had

Accusations of plagiarism are best avoided, not least for lack of proof

written down their thoughts on paper, with the same contradictory results. The agency dismisses the suggestion.

In the light of the ad industry's voracious appetite for stealing, one's natural sympathies might be with the artist. Indeed, a similar dispute comes to court soon. The commercials director Mahdi Norowzian claims that the Irish ad agency, Arks, stole an idea from a test film of his.



This, allegedly, became the popular Guinness commercial "anticipation", in which a man danced manically around a pint of Guinness while waiting for his stout to settle.

Even if Norowzian can prove that he is morally right, whether he will win the legal battle is another matter.

The Wearing dispute is altogether more difficult. Did she ever see the 1991 Maxell tapes ad campaign? Two ads featured people holding placards containing the lyrics they thought they were hearing, while viewers listened to the real *Israelites* by Desmond Dekker and *Into the Valley* by the Skids.

These ads, which won many advertising awards at the time, were involved in their

own row over plagiarism. Bob Dylan fans may be forgiven for associating the idea not with VW or Maxell, or even Wearing, but with the legendary singer's *Subterranean Homesick Blues* video.

I don't know where Wearing's inspiration came from, but I'm half-ashamed to admit I'd never heard of her or her work before this row blew up. When I first saw the VW ads I thought: 1) nice idea, 2) where's that music from? (the BBC's children's classic *Take Hart*), and 3) reminds me of the Maxell ads.

I'm not alone. More people in the introspective advertising world would associate the VW ad with Maxell, if anything. And, after Maxell, Dylan not Wearing. Woe betide anyone, whatever the medium, who insists that they came up with an idea first. Better to be upfront about borrowing — as in the apocryphal tale of the movie mogul recycling the 12 *B-movie* script permutations. Accepting that someone else has had your brilliant idea may be the hardest thing of all for any creative person.

■ WITH World Cup TV audiences exceeding best expectations, a novel situation has arisen in the TV airtime trading market: deflation. This has come about because, while the number of viewers has been higher than expected, the World Cup has not proved the revenue bonanza some ITV sales executives had hoped. In the mind-bogglingly complicated system, Carlton estimates that advertisers could have saved themselves hundreds of thousands of pounds in buying the same number of viewers this month compared with May. Airtime prices for male audiences are down 20 per cent year on year, having been up 10 per cent year on year for both April and May.

Simply put, there appear to be airtime bargains to be had around the World Cup, particularly for advertisers targeting young, affluent males. However, it appears that some buying agencies are not snapping them up and, inevitably, both sides are blaming the other. Buyers claim ITV overhyped and overpriced the airtime, neglecting the rest of its schedule. ITV sales executives

دعا من الاكاديمية



One of the Maxell ads: was this where the vogue for contradictory signs began?

Secret files kept on City writers

PR agencies pass on verdicts to clients, says Martin Waller

Financial journalists, like their political counterparts, loathe, deride and are occasionally forced to rely on the public relations industry. Likewise, companies have come to rely on the PR agencies that claim to influence what is written about them.

All this is well known — but what few financial journalists realise is the way that the agencies keep tabs on them and their private lives and even draw up personal psychological profiles that are forwarded to corporate clients. At the same time, journalists' views on a company and their willingness to swallow the official line are carefully assessed.

One big PR agency even draws up an "amenability index" of journalists: plus 2, and you're a pushover; minus 2, and you are deeply sceptical. It really is that regimented. I know because I am looking at one such index now.

I first learnt of a general file about me, including some sniping comments on my character, when an employee of one agency, who himself seemed sceptical about the value of the exercise, read its contents out to me over the phone. Something about "not being easily led to a story" stuck pleasingly in the mind.

Then my file, from another agency arrived in the post. They should have gone to the client to whom I was being introduced but were sent to me by mistake. It was a bit like reading your own obituary. I laughed and soon forgot about them. Such files sent to the client are not going to be too damning and are unlikely to say: "This one is a complete idiot, and I suggest you waste a lunch with him." Of course, personal details can be useful, helping to break the ice over pre-lunch drinks.

The fact that PR agencies produce such profiles for their clients is nothing new. Some years ago one even

tried to publish an expensive *Who's Who* of financial journalists supplied by the writers themselves. The exercise came to grief, though, when the agency was hoaxed by details supposedly supplied by one senior journalist claiming he was interested in fiddling his expenses and less salubrious nightclubs. The idiots printed it, he objected, and the whole lot had to be pulped.

But I, for one, had no idea until the amenability index arrived last week that PR firms had now progressed to tipping off clients about which specialists were most inclined to be hostile.

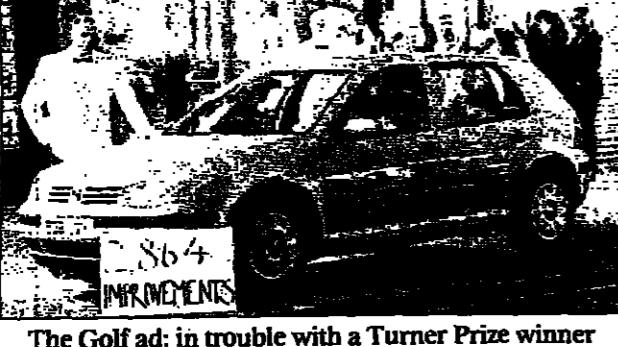
I was not mentioned in the amenability index; it was, instead, a detailed assessment of the published work of every important specialist writer as it related to Storehouse, the retail combine that takes in Mothercare and BHS.

I was drawn up by Brunswick, one of the most powerful City spin-doctors, which has boasted its ability to "control" the press. It was tipping off Storehouse that certain writers attending a briefing to learn of the company's financial results could be expected to give it a hard time.

"This rather negative article focuses on Storehouse's performance" ... "Mischievous article speculating that S is an attractive bid target" ... "Slightly cynical remark about the chief executive". Of the journalists rated from "very negative" to "very supportive", most came in on the sceptical side, but Storehouse is an unpopular company with a poor stock market record.

The honour in such a list lies in how far down it you appear. I suppose. The man from *The Times* came in a respectable minus 1, or "negative". Not half as negative as he was after he learnt of this patronising and cynical exercise.

● Martin Waller is deputy city editor of *The Times*



The Golf ad: in trouble with a Turner Prize winner

Power to the people? Can do

This week has seen further speculation over plans for Jeremy Paxman to head up ITV's proposed equivalent of the USA's *60 Minutes*, in an attempt to break the mould of news and current affairs on television. I hope he does. Over the past year, *Newsnight's* "man of the people" has pioneered new opportunities for citizens to challenge politicians head to head. Now it is time for the people to take centre stage on prime-time television.

This week the Scarman Trust launched its project Can Do across ITV's Southern region, which will involve thousands of people in debate and action over the next two years. The trust has been given £1.2 million by the Millennium Commission to run Can Do, which was launched across the Central TV Midlands region in April and will be rolling out across the whole of Britain over the next year.

Our Midlands 24-hour freephone hotline has been provided by BT's communications training initiative, TalkWorks. Every caller is asked to list the most pressing problems in their area, and their ideas for how the situation could be improved. They are then invited to apply for one of the 500 awards of £2,000 to help them to put their ideas into action.

Julie Hall on a project giving people a say on issues that affect them

The calls have produced strong campaigning stories. For example, Elaine Bill, a single parent, calls to say there is nowhere on the large estate where she lives for children to play. We met her, and persuaded Central News to run a story. In just days, Elaine has set up a parents' group, been on television, lobbied her councillors and found that £50,000 allocated for the area has not been spent. The council promises to help.

Fifteen-year-old Shane O'Neill and his friends are lobbying their council to give them the money to turn wasteland, used by joyriders to burn stolen cars, into a basketball pitch and centre for young people to meet. We take the story to Central and the *Nottingham Post*. Shane and his friends become television and front-page news.

Twelve hundred people have called Midlands Can Do so far. We have been

able to invite callers with similar concerns — unemployment or childcare provision, for example — to come to "talkabouts", where they can discuss their concerns and draw up plans for tackling them.

Can Do is operating at a local level, but the inclusion of citizens in setting the national and international news agenda will improve coverage, too.

The French production companies Agence Z and Internews Europe, and five European broadcasters, will run a unique television series, *The Europe We Want*, for six months from the introduction of the single currency in January, through to the European elections. European citizens will show how their lives might be affected by the future development of Europe, and they will be able to debate face to face with politicians and commissioners. A website will run alongside the series.

The media can now enable people to be real players in the local, national and global debates affecting their lives. For the first time, we have the communications, information and media technologies to make this happen.

● Julie Hall, a former ITN political correspondent, is Can Do's editorial co-ordinator. The Scarman Trust number is 0171-633 5813

WHO'S WATCHING THE WORLD CUP					
	Match	Date	Programme	Millions	
Highest audiences (BBC)	Brazil v Scotland	June 10	15.30-19.30	11,746	
	England v Tunisia	June 15	13.00-15.35	10,637	
Highest audiences (ITV)	Jamaica v Croatia	June 14	19.50-22.00	16,216	
	Morocco v Norway	June 10	19.30-22.00	9,342	
Highest share of audience viewers	BBC England v Tunisia	June 15	13.00-15.35	44.5	%
	ITV Jamaica v Croatia	June 14	19.50-22.00	39.5	
Highest male TVRs on ITV to date	Jamaica v Croatia	June 14	19.50-22.00	25.3	TVR*
	Morocco v Norway	June 10	19.30-22.00	24.2	
	Cameroon v Austria	June 11	19.30-22.00	22.6	

BBC recorded 28.1 male TVR for Brazil v Scotland Games covered: Wednesday June 10 - Monday, June 15 inclusive
* TVR unit of ratings measured as % of audience that has watched in an average minute
Source: BARS research, available to media

ITV has turned in some credible performances over the opening days of the World Cup. Its coverage of Morocco v Norway and Jamaica v Croatia even pipped Coronation Street ratings for the Wednesday before World Cup week.

World Cup advertisers seek mainly male ratings, although a recent survey carried out in the Granada region by the ITV sales house Laser indicated that two-thirds of women would tune in to some or all matches.

The trouble with any viewing data for major live sport is that it is impossible to measure the legions of pub viewers who are likely to skew the

figures towards a higher female profile. But for evening or weekend matches played over the first six days (when, presumably, there is more chance of some men watching from home), women viewers still made up about 35 per cent of the audience.

Boosted by one England and one Scotland appearance, the Beeb has a higher average audience to date than ITV, and a slightly higher share of women viewers in the underlying *Ginola* v *Gullit*, *Lynam* v *Wilson* charm contest.

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CHANGING TIMES

ELD AWARDS 1999

FOOTBALL
Palmer
wanted
as United
manager

By DAVID MADDOCK

IT WOULD be, perhaps, one of the more unlikely managerial appointments...

The Southampton midfielder might appear too laid-back a character to become a manager...

United hope to gain permission to speak to the former England international...

Paul Kitson, the West Ham United forward, will miss the first two months of next season because of a persistent groin injury...

But Sheffield could raise that cash by selling David Holdsworth, their centre half, to Sunderland...

United are also in negotiations with Benfica, who are interested in Vasilis Borbokis, their Greece right wing back...

One player definitely moving is Shaka Hislop, the Newcastle goalkeeper...

Hislop - who forced his way into the England squad towards the end of the season but failed to make the World Cup finals - has agreed a five-year contract with the London club...

Lord's shrugs off the gloom as new Grandstand receives royal seal of approval
Cork supplies drama to go with the pageant

MAGNIFICENT The Duke of Edinburgh, a former president of MCC, officially declared the new Grandstand open before the start of play yesterday and even the mizzle of a grey London morning could not deny its splendour...

MICHAEL HENDERSON



At Lord's

A progressive ground building on a unique tradition: nobody can say that the custodians of this special plot of earth are not trying, even if they face one or two local difficulties...

"We found that there were 15 original life members still alive," explained Roger Knight, the MCC secretary...

And fantastic it was for England when Dominic Cork, maintaining the golden rule that began in the first Test at Edgbaston, ripped out four batsmen in a spell of seam bowling that helped to compensate the spectators for the frustrations of the morning...

One wicket gave him special pleasure. Darryl Cullinan spent a less than harmonious year with Derbyshire in 1996, when Cork was a team-mate...

Cork may not really dislike Cullinan but he would probably sing along with the Cole Porter songbook: "If they ever make a cannibal stew out of you, invite me too..."



Cork, right, who took the four wickets to fall, talks tactics with his captain, Stewart. Photograph: Gill Allen

Northamptonshire spirits dampened

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE suffered their fourth successive washout when the second day of the Britannia Assurance county championship game against Middlesex at Wantage Road was abandoned without a ball bowled yesterday (Richard Hobson writes)...

amptonsire's 12 days of scheduled championship cricket away from home. They sat fifth from bottom before the Middlesex contest, despite being unbeaten in the four-day competition...

Key's long turn keeps Kent door open

CANTERBURY (second day of four): Kent, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 153 runs behind Nottinghamshire...

hamshire took the upper hand on an eventful second day at Canterbury. Their last eight wickets added only 125 runs - 46 of them from the belligerent Paul Johnson - but a total of 309 was a good one on a pitch with enough life in it to keep a disciplined fast bowler interested...

ball rose nastily and had Kent reeling with a burst of three wickets in 21 balls. Read held a brilliant low catch at full length to complete the removal of Fulton, who froze in the crease. Walker got a delivery that reared and he stood aghast as Robinson, a man of 34, threw himself from short leg to snaffle the ball inches from the turf...

who might have fallen first ball, swiftly held in the slips. Kent were 58 for four and so uncomfortable that it was hard to see how they could make even 150. Ward changed all that by trumping nine effortless boundaries on his way to 40 - his highest championship score of the year - but he, Fleming and Marsh all gave their wickets away...

first XI four weeks ago but in that time has contributed one of the side's two championship centuries and shown strong technique as well as temperament. In batting throughout Kent's 220-minute innings of 150 for seven, Key hit exactly the right note, keeping out everything that his friend Franks threw at him...

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Lancashire see gains in floodlit loss

THE washout of the first day of Lancashire's championship match against Surrey yesterday gave the county time to mull over the success or otherwise of the floodlit extravaganza at Old Trafford the previous evening...

SCOREBOARDS

BRITANNIA ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP
Durham v Yorkshire
Durham: First Innings
Yorkshire: First Innings

Kent: First Innings
Surrey: First Innings
Somerset v Essex
Sussex v Warwickshire
Warwickshire: First Innings

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CRICKET

Marathon man puts Yorkshire in a spin

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

CHESTER-LE-STREET (second day of four): Yorkshire, with two first-innings wickets in hand, are 112 runs behind Durham

VERTIGO suddenly has become not so much a Durham ailment as a heady delight. Looking down from second place in the championship is a novel experience, along with the sight yesterday of a prospering slow bowler, Nicky Phillips, from the county.

Phillips, 24, an off spinner released by Sussex last autumn, returned a career-best four for 70 during a marathon, unchanged spell of 42 overs from the Lumley End. Vaughan resisted with 118 not out, his eleventh first-class century, and this morning could become the first Yorkshire player to carry his bat since Geoffrey Boycott made 55 of the team's 131 against Surrey at Sheffield in 1985. Vaughan, composed despite the wickets that tumbled

innings. Ironically, it suited Phillips, who pitched into the rough and enjoyed a golden harvest.

This was a sad chapter in the burgeoning career of Hutchison, who returned a career-best seven for 38 against Pakistan A at Headingley last summer. He returned a creditable three for 55 in the Durham innings, but was banned from bowling after delivering the first ball of his sixth over on the second morning.

Otherwise, Boon occupied centre stage, playing a resolute innings that yielded his 66th first-class century. He batted for six hours 42 minutes, faced 365 balls and hit only 12 fours, a testimony to his no-risk approach.

Vaughan emulated Boon's performance in guiding Yorkshire beyond the minimum requirement of 189 to avoid the follow-on. They achieved it for the loss of six wickets, with the exit of Lehmann, to Phillips, causing Yorkshire considerable anxiety at 87 for three.

Lehmann, stretching forward, became a first championship stumping victim for Speight since he joined Durham from Sussex last summer. Phillips, willingly fighting the ball and challenging Yorkshire to take liberties, was rewarded for his energy, as well as his accuracy.

Wood, playing back fatally, was leg-before and Hamilton was caught off bat and pad at silly point. Phillips also bowled Stemp but was frustrated in his efforts to take a fifth wicket.

The initial breakthrough had belonged to Harrison, who had McGrath caught at the wicket down the leg side and induced Byas to play on as the new batsman attempted to negotiate an awkward few overs before lunch.

Vaughan offered only one chance, on 74, and that was a supremely difficult one to Collingwood, who leapt high at first slip but could not cling on, one-handed, to the edge off Betts.

After scoring first-class hundreds against such varied opponents as Oxford University, Matabeleland and his native Lancashire, Vaughan, 23, an England A tourist, will remember his latest one with special affection — especially if he can emulate Boycott, who carried his bat eight times for Yorkshire.

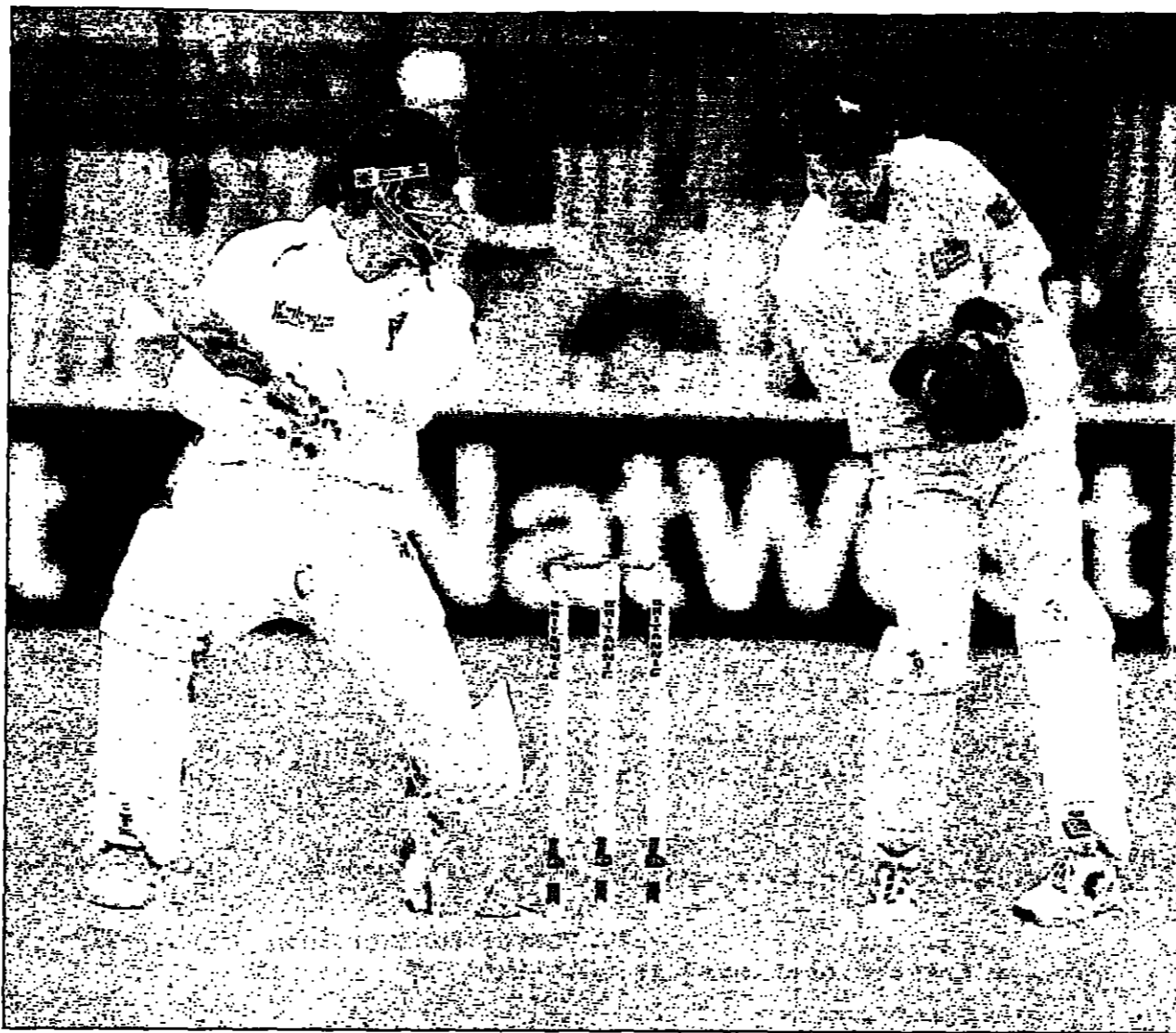


Vaughan century

around him, made his runs from 263 balls in 6½ hours, but Durham, yet to beat Yorkshire in six attempts, are distinctly on the front foot.

Durham have every reason for buoyancy on a pitch offering turn and occasional lift, although they must be wary of Stemp, the slow left-arm bowler, in their second innings. The spin-friendly surface, unusual at the Riverside, may have been fostered by Hutchison, 21, the Yorkshire left-arm seam bowler, who was removed from the attack under Law 42, paragraph 11, relating to bowlers damaging the pitch.

Hutchison had been warned twice on the first day by Graham Burgess, the umpire, and was barred, after a third admonishment, from bowling during the rest of the



Knight, who tried to curb his natural attacking instincts throughout his 7½-hour innings of 159, cuts Robinson

Lara's poor run continues

By RUPERT COX

HOVE (second day of four): Warwickshire have scored 411 for six wickets against Sussex

AFTER Warwickshire had dominated the first day's play, Sussex slowed them down yesterday when the experimental 1pm start proved its worth. Showers would have prevented a resumption at 11am, but, as it was, play began at the scheduled hour.

Resuming in the healthy position of 276 for one, Warwickshire laid the platform for their middle order and most notably, Brian Lara, to score at a rapid pace, especially as Chris Adams resisted the temptation to take the new ball until 35 minutes into the day's play.

It seemed an incongruous decision, especially from a

team sitting in third place in the championship, but in the face of a defensive field, Warwickshire played into Adams's hands. As Nick Knight and David Hemp sought to consolidate, play descended into torpor before the realisation dawned that the final batting bonus point was in jeopardy.

In a bid to lift the tempo, Knight persisted as he advanced to Jason Lewry, in only that bowler's second over of the day, and succeeded in yorking himself after making 159 in 7½ hours. Only two of his 15 boundaries were struck yesterday.

There were eight runs still required to secure maximum bonus points when Lara arrived but once again he failed.

Having survived a leg-before appeal from Lewry's first ball, he then shuffled across his stumps, waded to leg and was palpably in front.

A second successive duck, following a similar dismissal at Bristol on Monday, reduced his first-class average to less than 23. The remainder of the season will permit an interesting insight into his temperament.

After 120 overs, Warwickshire were becalmed at 343 for three with Hemp quite unable to get the ball away. Surprisingly for someone used to the slower pitches of Wales, he struggled to come to terms with the sluggish pace of this pitch. He thrusts his hands hard at the ball, which helps to

make him an elegant driver, but limits his ability to work the ball into the gaps. Two overs before the first interval, he was undone by a delivery from Michael Bevan that bounced more than he expected, after scoring only 19 from 100 balls.

The fact that the first session produced 76 runs for the loss of three wickets, in 34 overs, made it a profitable period for Sussex after their leather-chasing of the opening day. But it begged the question of what would have happened had they taken the new ball on cue, for Lewry claimed two prize wickets when he was eventually called upon.

As Warwickshire continued to struggle, Toby Peirce collected his first wicket in first-class cricket.

Somerset await a lucky break

By IVO TENNANT

BATH (second day of four): Somerset have scored 98 for one wicket against Essex

AFTER just eight overs on the first day, only 27 were possible yesterday. Festival cricket needs festival weather, otherwise the result is the kind of five-figure loss that occurred at Bath last year, leading to speculation about the future of first-class matches on this ground.

The organisers are in need of some luck, but they have secured sufficient financial backing for the festival to continue until at least 2001. It provides cricket for members and supporters who

live in this corner of Somerset and there are few more attractive grounds in the country — at least, when the sun is out. The forecast is better for the weekend.

On a damp, green pitch, Somerset added 53 runs for the loss of Bowler, their captain, who was leg-before, half-forward, to Cowan. The conditions did not assist the Essex bowlers — the medium-pacers found the surface too slow and there was insufficient turn for the off spin of Such — and only Holloway drove off the front foot with any conviction. Cowan, who bowled seven no-balls on

Wednesday, fared rather better yesterday off a shorter run. One of the reasons why Essex are stuck at the bottom of the championship table is that a number of their bowlers, Such and Cowan included, have had difficulty in finding their rhythm after injury.

When Bowler was out, having made 25, including five fours, Harden came in and struggled to put bat to seaming ball. Play did not get under way until 11.15am and was finished for the day by 1pm. Mizzling rain arrived from behind Bath Abbey and was still falling in late afternoon, when it was evident that nothing further would be possible.

MCC to think again over women's role

EXTRA



COVER

THE 17,500 members of MCC are being quizzed this week over the objections that they might have to the election of women to the club. A questionnaire sent by Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, the president, seeks responses on whether women should join in an honorary capacity or as players, and on the possible establishment of a male-only bar in the pavilion.

"I appreciate that when the original report was sent to the membership in December, the committee was probably guilty of not addressing some of the important issues which were likely to concern members," Ingleby-Mackenzie said. "When this issue is next voted upon, the committee intends to answer all questions."

The questionnaire states that it might be possible to retain a male-only bar in the pavilion, even if women are admitted to other areas, including the Long Room. "The club is now in the position of having nearly 56 per cent of the members who voted being in favour of allowing women to join the club," Ingleby-Mackenzie said. "This, taking into account the support of the committee, makes the present situation most unsatisfactory."

However, not every woman is in agreement with a cause most vociferously espoused by Rachael Heyhoe Flint, Penny Cowdrey, former wife of one England captain and mother of another, disapproves of any stridency. "They are asking for rather a lot," she said.

Sunday off

Gloucestershire are allowing Courtney Walsh to miss the Axa League fixture against Worcestershire on Sunday so that he can watch Jamaica's World Cup game against Argentina in Paris. Walsh, a football fanatic, was invited to act as a special ambassador at the game by the Jamaican Prime Minister, P. J. Patterson.

son. "Given his loyalty to us over the years it was only fair to give him the time off," Colin Sexstone, the Gloucestershire chief executive, said.

Hat-trick hero

Sir Geoff Hurst became the latest cricketing knight when he was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours. He appeared for Essex in a single county championship game against Lancashire at Liverpool in 1962, scoring 0 not out and 0, but such figures do little justice to his ability, according to Trevor Bailey, the Essex captain of the day. "He was distinctly handy, with the potential to become a good cricketer," Bailey said.

Midway through the 1966 World Cup finals, Alf Ramsey took the England squad to Lord's to watch Middlesex play Essex and Bailey recalls commiserating with Hurst, yet to replace Jimmy Greaves in the England side. "I suggested it must be very hard not actually playing and his reply, typically modest, was that he could not expect to play with so many very good players in the squad," Bailey said. Within two weeks, Hurst had scored the most famous hat-trick in football history.

Back to basics

No sooner have the first-class scorers come to terms with new technology than they are forced to return to the age of the quill pen. The computers belonging to Keith Gerrish, of Gloucestershire, and Alex Davis, of Warwickshire, were stolen overnight from their score box at Bristol earlier this week. They had to resort to time-honoured methods.

On the theme of accolades, it would be remiss to overlook the honour bestowed upon the Glamorgan captain by James Graham, a junior member of the Welsh county. James was allowed to keep one of a litter of 11 puppies that his pet dog bred recently. He named it "Maynard".



Walsh: Jamaica loyalist

FATHER TIMES

Hawes proves a master of generation game

Women's bowls does not have a youthful image. The home internationals begin at Llandrindod Wells today and it does not come as a shock to learn that England will field Mavis Steele, a 69-year-old, who has not missed an international since 1959. More of a surprise, perhaps, is that alongside her will be Katherine Hawes, 28.

"I can't think of any other sport where it is possible to have such a big age difference," Hawes said. "My county only has four people under 30 playing and the average age at my club must be getting on for 60. Although the men's side of the game is getting younger, it seems very hard to get youngsters interested in women's bowls."

The dress code might have something to do with it. "It is strict," she said. "For county competitions it's white skirts, white blouse and jumper and blue blazer. We've just moved from brown to white shoes and we also have to wear hats and gloves, although some

SARAH POTTER



counties have agreed not to wear hats any more." Some older players are in favour of a relaxation of the rules. Coloured clothing is one suggestion put forward to help to brush aside the game's cobwebbed image. Surprisingly, Hawes disputes that it

would make much of a difference. "Once I got hooked on the game, the dress didn't bother me. I'm not sure the uniform puts people off."

According to Hawes, lack of television coverage and newspaper inches has far more bearing. "You can see world championship events on telly and that's about it," she said. "I think some of our events should be covered because the top ladies would be a good match for the men. The local newspaper has a page of bowls every week, but it's always about the men."

Hawes lives with her parents in the Oxfordshire village of Drayton-St-Leonard, working for her father in property maintenance. It seems that the monthly village newsletter covers more of the sport than the *Oxford Mail*.

"It is a small community here," she said. "But the newsletter is always interested in what's going on, congratulating me if I'm picked and wishing me luck." This month, its pages will



Hats off to Hawes, who is heading for Kuala Lumpur

have good reason to gloat. Hawes is only in her second season of senior international outdoor competition, but has realised her ambition to be selected for the Commonwealth Games and leaves for Kuala Lumpur in September. "I've done a lot of travelling within Britain playing bowls but this is a bit different," she said. "It's just a brilliant

feeling, knowing that we're going to be away at a major games staying with all the other athletes. I can't wait." Hawes admitted that fitness is not too essential. "Obviously if there are 80-year-olds still playing well, you don't exactly have to fitness train," she said. "I've just joined a gym because I think it will help in September. The humidity in Kuala

Lumpur is 80 per cent. That's incentive to get fitter and I plan sit in the sauna for a while."

It might also be the first time she will be happy to wear a hat. "They've designed a new style for us to keep the sun off our heads," she said.

For the moment, though, Hawes is only thinking about an English victory in the home internationals. "Scotland won it last year and are always very difficult to beat," she said. "But we've been told by our president that we have to make amends."

Hawes said that England's preparation has been thorough. "We had a team practice the weekend before last where the national coaches came along and did practices with us. It's more on the psychological side, making sure there are no negatives and that we all play to our abilities."

Steele, with her formidable record, might also have been telling this junior member that she has at least 40 years in which to reach her peak.

BOWLS: FIXTURE CONFLICT POSES DILEMMA FOR SCOTLAND INTERNATIONAL

Lindores's schedule causes concern

By DAVID RHYS JONES

WILL Joyce Lindores, the Scotland international, turn up at Rock Park, Llandrindod Wells, today to compete in the British Isles women's singles championship? If she does, she will meet Phillis Nolan, of Ireland, who has won the title twice and the world pairs on three occasions. The winner will meet Mary Price, the Atlantic Rim champion, or Betty Morgan, from the host club, who has won the Welsh singles title five times.

If Lindores does not show up, she could face disciplinary action, which seems a tad unfair, given that her absence would be a direct consequence of Scotland's participation in a special pre-Commonwealth Games tournament in Kuala Lumpur next week.

Eight years ago an Ireland player received a life suspension for failing to take her place in the British championships. Ireland officials contend that, if Lindores puts a foreign

trip in front of the flagship British event, she should meet a similar fate, but the Scots are understood to be trying to book Lindores on a late flight to Malaysia, so that she can discharge her obligations in Mid-Wales, and defuse the situation.

Lindores notwithstanding, the Scots stand accused of devaluing the home Internationals, which run concurrently, by fielding a below-

strength team. Five of their hopefuls for the Commonwealth Games have already departed for some crafty practice at Bukit Kiara and will miss the series.

Wales, the holders of the British title, are hoping to catch a new-look England squad napping before they have time to settle this morning. With Scotland below strength, and Ireland in some disarray, the encounter could prove to be the key to the series.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 47

OEIL-DE-PERDRIX (c) In French pottery and porcelain, a design of dotted circles, usually on a coloured background, first used circa 1760 on Sevres porcelain. In French "partridge-eye".

PHALLOCRAT (f) One who advocates or assumes the existence of a male-dominated society; a man who argues his superiority over women because of his masculinity. From the Greek *phallos* the erect penis + *crat* ruling, superior.

REPTILE (a) A two-dimensional figure of which two or more can be grouped together to form a larger figure having the same shape. An acronym from replicating tile with a pun on reptile.

PIKAU (b) A pack for carrying on the back, a knapsack, a swag. Also peko and piko. The Maori word.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... f2 gxf4 Qh5 3 e4 (3 Ke2 Qxd3+) 3... Qxe4 4 Qxd3 Qxd3+ with a decisive material advantage.

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GOLF

Insults fail to undermine Montgomery

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN SAN FRANCISCO

COLIN MONTGOMERIE'S attempt to improve on his two second-place finishes in the past four US Open championships began yesterday just after 8am on a typical San Francisco midsummer morning — that is to say, one that was damp, overcast and cold. It was of San Francisco, remember, that Mark Twain said: "The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco."

Wearing a dark blue sweater to ward off the early morning chill, Montgomery, using a three-wood, found the winding fairway high above the Pacific and got his opening par five, though he had to play his third stroke from under the spreading branches of a cypress tree. Montgomery was momentarily nonplussed, though, when his second shot to the 2nd hole, a short par four, found the green but then spun back off the putting surface.

This hole, less than 400 yards long, seemed to catch Montgomery, Jim Furyk and David Duval, his playing partners as well as two close rivals, unawares. None reached the green in fewer than three strokes. Duval taking four, though he then nearly holed out. Whereas Montgomery showed all the skills that he has learned in

Great Britain to play a deft chip-and-run from 25 yards and make sure that his ball remained below the hole. Furyk could not match such finesse.

Montgomery's first chance of a birdie came at the 3rd, where his tee shot ended in the middle part of the green. He missed the opportunity, but of more concern was the fact that he then missed a chance to get under par on the 4th and join Clarence Rose as one of the early leaders. Having split the fairway with his drive — he had not yet missed a fairway — Montgomery hit a delightful second to no more than 8ft from the hole. It was a flat, straight putt and he hit it on the correct line but with a shade too little confidence and it turned at the last minute.

Earlier in the year, Montgomery was referred to in an American weekly sports magazine, neither accurately nor charmingly, as "the Goom from Troon" and he had woken yesterday to another remark in similar vein. On this occasion, he was nicknamed Snidely Whiplash after a character in a children's cartoon on television.

"Every great drama needs a villain," the article in a local daily newspaper began. It continued: Montgomery "is

the tall Scotsman with the curly hair and ruddy face. Usually that face is scrunched up in a sour-pickle expression after missing a putt."

He appeared unfazed by that attack, just as he was unaffected by the dangers of "quake corner", the name given to the runs of holes from the 3rd to the 7th. He continued to hit every fairway and, when he coaxed in a curling 6ft putt for a birdie on the uphill 8th, he had moved to one under par.

Perhaps the hole that demonstrated most clearly how well Montgomery was playing was the 5th, where he had to execute one of those very ticklish pitches from the collar of thick rough that lap almost up to the edge of the putting surfaces at US Open venues.

It was the sort of shot that gives amateurs nightmares because it requires such skill. It had to be played with a floppy swing to make sure that the clubface penetrated the thick grass and yet the ball did not have to be struck hard. Montgomery did it to perfection. No more than 20ft from the flag, he took a half-swing, the ball soared upwards, landed softly and rolled to just ft from the target.

There had been a worry that the combination of a course as tight as Olympic and the overpowering majesty of such an occasion such as a US Open might undermine the lack of experience and Lee Westwood. Patience and stoicism are necessary essentials for every US Open competitor and perhaps Westwood, at 25 and competing in only his second US Open, has not yet acquired quite enough of either characteristic. Winning at Hanbury Manor and in Germany is only partial preparation for the rigours of an early start with two of the biggest names in golf — Tiger Woods and Tom Watson — in the game's second annual major championship.

Woods began like a sprinter, as if irked that some of the publicity that has been devoted to men like Casey Martin this week has meant that there has been less attention paid to him. He birdied the 1st and then the 5th and 6th as well. Westwood dropped his first stroke at the 2nd and then one more at each of the holes that Woods birdied. Watson, more than twice the age of both his playing partners, also dropped strokes on the 4th and 5th, but like Montgomery, birdied the 8th.



Montgomery braves the cold at the 1st yesterday

Kournikova adds to Graf turmoil

BY JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

IT IS hard to know what to take from a truly memorable match played at Eastbourne yesterday between Steffi Graf and Anna Kournikova, the Russian understudy for the crowd's affections. Kournikova won it, as her positive approach demanded, but the suspicion was that Graf might have prevailed if the stakes were higher.

The issue will be resolved at Wimbledon. In the meantime, Graf will remember the match for what she felt were a series of shocking line calls. Kournikova, who shed tears of joy after winning 6-7, 6-3, 6-4, will recall it as her first victory over the resurgent German. The spectators, for their part, will treasure a deciding set of rare beauty, in which Kournikova glided some stunning rallies with net play of the highest class. It was a pleasure to behold.

Anyone doubting the sincerity of Graf's ambitions on her latest comeback should have heard the rancour in her protests as the contest unfolded. Unsettled as early as the fourth game, she eventually reached boiling point. For the first time in her career, Graf demanded that line judges should be replaced. Not just one, but all of them.

"There were too many bad calls," Graf said. "You accept a few mistakes but not that many. You try to have a professional approach and you expect that from the umpires as well." Graf deserves some sympathy, although her lack of confidence eventually led her to question some perfectly legitimate calls.

Graf's turmoil, itself a rare sight, spoke for her lack of inner calm — an obvious legacy of her enforced absence. Her nerves restricted her usually formidable forehand — the bedrock of her game — and her service is not yet properly grooved.

"I didn't step into the ball," Graf said, "and I am not happy about it. I was not loose at the start. A couple more days of practice is what I need." Well though she competed, Graf is now in a dilemma. She must not allow the burden of defeat to outweigh the benefits she will derive from this two-hour struggle.

Victory prompted



Her apparent Kournikova ushers in the wind of change during her defeat of Graf at Eastbourne yesterday

Kournikova to define this Direct Line championships quarter-final as "one of the best matches I have played." Kournikova has always boasted an effective volley and she has learnt to bring that shot into play.

Her confidence was such that she took the game to Graf. She was happy to trade with Graf's famed forehand, only switching her lines of attack when advancing to the net. Fortunately, a precautionary X-ray on her right hand con-

firmed that she did no lasting damage when she slipped and fell heavily midway through the decisive set.

There is no doubting Kournikova's ability on grass. She reached the Wimbledon semi-finals on her debut last

year and is now a smarter player. She absorbs her lessons, has an astute tennis brain and seems the most likely player to usurp the defending champion, Martina Hingis, at Wimbledon. The problem is that Kournikova, 17, has a shocking draw. In all probability she will have to beat Serena Williams, Venus Williams and then Jana Novotna before meeting Hingis in the semi-finals.

In the only other quarter-final completed before the rain intervened, Natasha Zvereva, the conqueror of Venus Williams on Wednesday, advanced beyond Magui Serna, of Spain, in straight sets. Serena Williams was deadlocked with Arantxa Sánchez Vicario at one set apiece in a struggle as tense as their French Open encounter.

Bjorkman bucks trend in fine style

BY ALIX RAMSAY

ANOTHER day of interruptions, delays and drizzle kept most of the main contenders in the locker-room at the Nottingham Open — not that there are many of them left, even if it is only the second round. Only three seeds remain in the competition and Jonas Bjorkman, the No 2, made sure yesterday that he would live to fight again by beating Grant Stafford, of South Africa, 6-2, 6-3.

On a damp and slippery court, the condition of the playing surface was more in doubt than the outcome of the

match. The newly painted lines would not dry on such a wet day and after Stafford had slipped once, he asked Pedro Bravo, the umpire, and Gerry Armstrong, the tournament supervisor, to have a look. Having finally got a match on court, neither was willing to stop the proceedings after only three games.

Bjorkman was not worried at all — he has been looking forward to the grass-

court season for the past two months and once he was able to get back to work, he was simply too strong for Stafford. Yet, although he feels that his game suits the slick surface, he has failed to get past the second round at Wimbledon for the past two years.

"I had a good run in 1994, but since then I haven't taken my chances," he said. "If I can pass the first round, then I could be dangerous and this year, if Pete [Sampras] is not at his best, then it could be very open."

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

ATHENS: International meeting: Men: 100m: 1. A Boldon (Trin) 9.86sec; 2. F. Fredericks (Nam) 9.93; 3. O. Eghagha (Nepal) 10.21; 200m: 1. A Boldon (Trin) 19.88; 2. A. Markovits (Cyp) 20.49; 3. G. Paragiotopoulos (Gr) 20.50; 400m: 1. S. Bada (Ruman) 48.25; 2. A. S. N. Demosutharan (Gr) 48.74; 3. E. Demosutharan (Gr) 49.31; 800m: 1. N. Muzika (Kaz) 3m 34.45sec; 2. N. Nigam (Ken) 3m 35.00; 3. A. Nizompa (Ruman) 3m 35.34; 1,500m: 1. W. Kavan (Ire) 4m 12.22; 3. J. Powell (Ir) 4m 12.80; 1,000m hurdles: 1. C. Jackson (GB) 3m 15.2; 2. F. Scherhoff (Ger) 3m 15.50; 3. I. Kacava (Eun) 3m 15.57; 3,000m steeplechase: 1. J. Kuter (Ken) 8m 14.34; 2. P. Kogel (Ger) 8m 18.82; 3. E. Bangura (Ken) 8m 21.14; High jump: 1. D. Tole (Trin) 2.02; 2. D. Papadimitriou (Gr) 2.00; 3. C. Kyprianou (Cy) 2.00; Long jump: 1. C. Kyprianou (Cy) 2.22; 2. D. Papadimitriou (Gr) 2.21; 3. V. Todor (Gr) 2.19; Pole vault: 1. J. Gallone (Fr) 3.97m; 2. T. Loeferer (Ger) 3.92; 3. C. Chaves (Rus) 3.72; Shot put: 1. B. Henry (Ger) 12.49; 2. D. Poyner (GB) 12.49; 3. E. Richards (Can) 12.11; Women: 100m: 1. E. Thrany (Gr) 11.16sec; 2. I. Pinalov (Rus) 11.13; 200m: 1. I. Pinalov (Rus) 22.64; 400m: 1. I. Pinalov (Rus) 56.25; 800m: 1. V. Alarova (Rus) 1m 58.82; 3. L. Formanova (Rus) 1m 59.72; 1,500m: 1. F. May (Gr) 3m 21.03; 2. H. Deschner (Ger) 3m 21.19; 3. T. Chedzoy (Gr) 3m 21.19; 5,000m: 1. B. Henry (Gr) 14.40; 2. T. Mannova (Bul) 14.47; 3. C. Vassalou (Gr) 14.44; 10,000m: 1. B. Derasoglou (Grc) 31.56; 2. V. Veneva (Bul) 31.83; 3. Y. Topchova (Rus) 31.93; Shot: 1. K. Denzko-Zelazny (Pol) 18.75; 2. W. Fuchsichova (Cze) 18.37; 3. Juan Yu (Chi) 18.04; Discus: 1. K. Vogal (Gr) 64.29; 2. L. Marie Vicario (Aus) 63.08

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 12 Chicago White Sox 5; Detroit 6 Minnesota 2; Tampa Bay 2 Toronto 1; New York Yankees 5 Baltimore 3; Kansas City 4 Cleveland 3; Oakland 3 Texas 2; Anaheim 4 Seattle 3. NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia 3 Pittsburgh 1; Milwaukee 6 Chicago Cubs 5; San Francisco 5 St Louis 1; Cincinnati 21-18; Montreal 5 New York Mets 4; Atlanta 6 Florida 2; Houston 6 St Louis 5; San Diego 3 Los Angeles 2 (12inn)

BOWLS

TORQUAY: English Riviera Open: Men: Singles: The Youngs, R. Johnson 14; Murray 21; 2nd round: J. Evans 11; Chedzoy 11; S. Evans 10; D. Lock 21-11; K. Chedzoy 11; D. Jones 11; R. Jones 11; D. Evans 21-12; T. Mitchell 11; H. Lorraine 21-15; R. Jack 11; K. James 21-17; D. Denison 11; G. Chivers 21-17; R. Clayton 11; D. Clarke 21-15; S. Smith 11; B. Hancock 21-15; R. Pate 11; 4th round: J. Pate 11; G. Chivers 21-12; J. Turner 11; G. Chivers 21-15; G. Woodhead 11; G. Dewar 21-11; Fourth round: Evans 11; Johnson 21-12; Chedzoy 11; Hamilton 21-12; Jones 11; Mitchell 11; Denison 11; Jack 21-16; Smith 11; Clayton 21-16; Pate 11; Hancock 21-20; Turner 11; Pate 21-2; Woodhead 11; Murray 21-12; 5th round: J. Evans 11; Pate 11; R. Matthews 21-14; R. Toxtard 11; T. Edwards 21-13; S. Evans 11; Chedzoy 21-18; D. O'Brien 11; B. Jones 21-14; S. Smith 11; A. Pate 21-12; J. Turner 11; G. Woodhead 21-13; Quarter-finals: Wright 11; G. Dewar 21-11; Pate 11; Toxtard 21-16; Denison 11; Evans 21-19; Turner 11; Smith 21-14; Semi-finals: Wright 11; Pate 21-8; Denison 11; Turner 21-

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Morarjee, New Zealanders 109-104; Somerset 117-107; Kent 112-104; Gloucestershire 125-101; Middlesex 148-80; Devon 117-86; Warwickshire 129-110; Lancashire 129-110; Essex 109-88; Hampshire 109-104; Somerset 117-107; Kent 112-104; Gloucestershire 125-101.

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Morarjee, New Zealanders 109-104; Somerset 117-107; Kent 112-104; Gloucestershire 125-101; Middlesex 148-80; Devon 117-86; Warwickshire 129-110; Lancashire 129-110; Essex 109-88; Hampshire 109-104; Somerset 117-107; Kent 112-104; Gloucestershire 125-101.

CRICKET

Second Cornhill Test match 11.0, second day of five, 50 overs minimum LLOYD'S: England v South Africa

OTHER SPORT

INTER-COUNTRY Under-15s: Gwent 104 (C) Hampshire 4 for 17; Herefordshire 105-2; Herefordshire won by eight wickets. SCHOOL MATCHES: Charnock-Rose 300-3; Westminster 58; Cranbrook 200-6; Bethany 48; MCC 122-8; RGS Gloucester 17; M.H. 125; Haberdashers' Aske's 110-5.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES DRAW

Group A: Sri Lanka, Barbados, Jamaica, Malaysia, B. India, Australia, Canada, Antigua and Barbuda, C. South Africa, Canada, Singapore, Northern Ireland, D. Pakistan, New Zealand, Kenya, Scotland.

CYCLING

TOUR OF SWITZERLAND: Third stage (Aigle-Lunz), 159.2km: 1. M. Zberg (Swi) 3. D. Nardello (It) 4. M. Fontana (It) 5. D. Zberg (Swi) 6. P. Vetsch (Swi) 7. S. Scarso (GB) 8. F. Caserini (It) 9. M. Scarso (GB) 10. E. Mazzoli (It) all at same time. Overall standings: 1. D. Hebelin (It) 2. M. Zberg (Swi) 3. L. Jalkanen (Fin) 4. 27sec; 3. Zberg 32.4; Gazzoni 44.5; W. Bell (It) 6. F. Garcia (Esp) both at same time. 7. P. Lemeroy (Aus) 45.8; 8. G. Gouganard 48.9; 9. A. Nee (It) at same time.

OTHER SPORT

LA PINEDA: Spain: Tour of Catalonia: First stage: First section (Via Seca-La Pineta), 73.5km: 1. M. Costello (Ir) 1hr 57m 47sec; 2. J. Ballester (Esp) 3. M. Traversari (It) 4. G. George Hincapie (US) 5. F. Fontana (It) 6. F. Moncassin (Fr) 7. J. F. Brankner (Esp) 8. A. Edo (Esp) 9. J. Knapik (Est) 10. E. Angulo (Esp) all at same time. Second stage 17.8km time trial: 1. C. Boardman (GB) 2m 23sec; 2. M. Veeva (It) at 2sec; 3. A. Abraham (Esp) at 10.4; U. Paschke (Ger) at 10.5; J. Carlos Domercq (Bel) 13.6; V. Eymov (Rus) at 14.7; M. M. M. (Esp) at 15.8; D. Baranowski (Pol) at 20.9; A. L. Casero (Esp) at 21.1; 10. M. Pedersen (It) at 23. Overall standings: 1. C. Boardman (GB) 2m 23sec; 2. M. Veeva (It) at 2sec; 3. A. Abraham (Esp) at 10.4; U. Paschke (Ger) at 10.5; J. Carlos Domercq (Bel) 13.6; V. Eymov (Rus) at 14.7; M. M. M. (Esp) at 15.8; D. Baranowski (Pol) at 20.9; A. L. Casero (Esp) at 21.1; 10. M. Pedersen (It) at 23.

EQUESTRIANISM

BURGIE: International Horse Trials: Dressage: 1st, Verwater (Ned); 2nd, K. de Boer (Ned); 3rd, J. van der Meulen (Ned); 4th, J. van der Meulen (Ned); 5th, J. van der Meulen (Ned); 6th, J. van der Meulen (Ned); 7th, J. van der Meulen (Ned); 8th, J. van der Meulen (Ned); 9th, J. van der Meulen (Ned); 10th, J. van der Meulen (Ned).

GOLF

MADERIA ISLAND OPEN: Sano da Serra Golf Club, leading, last-round scores (British units): 66-72 (Tappony) 68; R. Winchester 1; C. Goggin (Ger) 5; A. Ames (Ir) 2; M. K. (Esp) 3; F. Goggin (Ger) 7; S. Scott (NZ) 8; J. G. Brand (Jap) 9; S. G. (Aust) 10; K. Tarnon (Jap) 11; M. Lamer (Swi) 12; P. Goggin (Ger) 13; G. Conry (Aus) 14; S. Goggin (Ger) 15; M. Lamer (Swi) 16; J. G. Brand (Jap) 17; R. Lee (Aust) 18; C. Dorn (Aust) 19.

REAL TENNIS

NEWPORT, Rhode Island: United States Championships: Semi-finals: J. M. (Fr) 6-3; Goggin 6-3, 6-0, 4-6, 6-1; C. Bray 6-3; Goggin 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, 3-6, 6-1; C. Bray 6-3; J. M. (Fr) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

SPEEDWAY

ELITE LEAGUE: King's Lynn 59; Belle Vue 51; Poole 41; Eastbourne 49; Wolverhampton 39; Coventry 50; PREMIER LEAGUE: Hull 45; Reading 43; Exeter 51; Sheffield 22.

TENNIS

BASTOURNE: Direct Line Championships: Quarter-finals: A. Kournikova (Rus) 6-3, 6-1; G. Graf (Ger) 6-7, 6-3, 6-4; N. Zvereva (Rus) 6-1; M. Serna (Esp) 7-6, 6-2.

ROHAMPTON: Wimbledon qualifying tournament: Men: First round: C. van Garse (Bel) 6-1, 6-4, 6-2.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Winchester surges into contention

GOLF: Roger Winchester, only in the field because most top European players are competing in the US Open, claimed a share of the first-round lead with a four-under-par 68 in the Madeira Island Open yesterday. Winchester, joined by Thomas Goggin, of Germany, Santiago Luña, the Spaniard, and Stephen Ames, of Trinidad and Tobago, at the top of the leaderboard, lost his PGA European Tour card four years ago and has been playing on the Challenge Tour. "It's a case of plugging away," he said.

Baulch takes on rivals

ATHLETICS: Jamie Baulch and Colin Jackson will meet over 100 metres in the Welsh championships in Cwmbran today. Baulch will also take on Iwan Thomas, like him an Olympic and world champion 4 x 400 metres relay silver medal-winner, over 400 metres and 200 metres at the championships, which are doubling up as the Welsh Commonwealth Games trials.

New blow for Salford

RUGBY LEAGUE: Salford Reds yesterday suffered another serious blow when Martin Crompton was ruled out until August. The Ireland captain has already missed two matches with a back injury and will now be absent from the Reds' next four JJB Super League games. Salford have suffered five successive defeats, increasing the pressure on Andy Gregory, their coach.

Surl gains early lead

EQUESTRIANISM: Phillip Surl, of Great Britain, on Kilkea Castle, took the lead on the first day of dressage in the two-star section of the Macallan international horse trials yesterday, with just one match completed. Because of the weather interruptions, the women's qualifying round has been switched to the Civil Service sports ground at Chiswick.

Rain forces venue switch

TENNIS: Rain meant that only 45 minutes of play was possible in the Wimbledon qualifying tournament at Roehampton yesterday, with just one match completed. Because of the weather interruptions, the women's qualifying round has been switched to the Civil Service sports ground at Chiswick.

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RUGBY UNION

England ready to move into reverse to make progress

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT, IN DUNEDIN

THE old order is on the move, but trust England to change in one respect and rein back in another. On the same day that Clive Woodward, the coach, announced that from henceforth team selection would be made on the day of the match — in this case, the match tomorrow with the most formidable team in the world, New Zealand — he also confessed that a compromise in playing style was necessary.

Woodward refuses to be governed by rugby's traditions; he questions everything that has been set for years, if not in stone then at least in plaster of Paris, but his embrace of the 15-man game that he so admires will be tempered at Carisbrook for the first international with the All Blacks by the unusual circumstances of this tour.

"You don't go into a Test match playing a style which will make you worse off," he said yesterday, after telling the media that specific team announcements could be consigned to history. "When we have been playing at Twickenham with certain players, we have the ability to score more tries than the opposition. Now we have to be more pragmatic."

Woodward still bitterly regrets his decision to name the XV that lost 76-0, a fortnight ago, to Australia ten days before the match. Since then he has seen his forwards give

a good account of themselves in two matches, with New Zealand A and the New Zealand Academy, while his backs have stuttered to an embarrassing halt. It needs no crystal ball, therefore, to imagine England driving through their forwards on what the forecast suggests will be a wet day against a New Zealand side with five significant changes from the XV that began the 26-26 draw with England last December.

Those changes include three of the side's spine, at No 8, hooker and scrum half; Taine Randell has the additional responsibility of leadership, while Anton Oliver and Junior

Tonu'u begin an international for the first time. Even the All Blacks are human. Oliver and Tonu'u, in particular, must earn their places in such company, though it will be of comfort to Oliver that he has 91 caps-worth of experience in his props — more than England have in their entire XV.

But while John Hart, the New Zealand coach, has proven talent at his beck and call, Woodward must cross his fingers and hope. He has named a squad of 23 and will continue to adopt such a course while he remains in charge, finalising his starting XV only when he sees the match-day conditions and the state of his squad's health. Yet training this week suggests first caps for Josh Lewsey and Pat Sanderson in the following side: Perry; Stimpson, Beal, Lewsey, Healey; Wilkinson, Dawson; Rowntree, Cockerill, Vickery, Archer, Grewcock, Clarke, Sanderson, Ojomoh.

Woodward's new approach was confirmed when he found the New Zealand A management at his door in Hamilton a week ago, seeking to know which way England — having won the toss — would play. Having been told that England would take the wind, New Zealand A named Rhys Duggan to run and link from scrum half into the wind in the first half and brought on Jon Preston, a kicking scrum half, in the second.

"There's no point in learning a lesson if you don't act on it," Woodward said. With so green a team, he needs all the help he can get, though a selection policy of horses for courses was being talked about in English rugby at least 15 years ago. How long England's horse will run is a moot point but, after the dreadful collapse against Australia, there are grounds for thinking that the visitors will be competitive, at the very least.

England have watched a video of the All Blacks training this week and making the same mistakes to which other sides are prone. Yet, come the day, the experience of the forwards, the direction and points-gathering of Andrew Mehrtens and the attacking skills of Christian Cullen will surely begin New Zealand's seven-match 1998 campaign in the best possible manner.

TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND: C M Cullen (Wellington), J W Wilson (Auckland), M A Meyerhoff (Canterbury), W K Little (North Harbour), J T Lomu (Otago), A P Mearns (Canterbury), O F Tu'u (Auckland), C W Dew (Auckland), A D Oliver (Otago), G M Brown (Auckland), I D Jones (North Harbour), R M Brooke (Auckland), N D Beal (Auckland), J A Koroheke (Otago), T C Randell (Otago), captain, replacements: C S Ralph (Auckland), C J Spence (Auckland), M D Robinson (North Harbour), M P Carter (Auckland), T J Blackadder (Canterbury), C H Heed (Otago), J J Hewitt (Southland), ENGLAND (from M B Perry (Bath), T R G Stimpson (Leicester), T Beal (Sale), G Brown (Richmond), N D Beal (Northampton), O J Lewsey (Lancashire), A S Healey (Leicester), J P Wilkinson (Newcastle), M J Sanderson (Sale), S O Ojomoh (Gloucester), A J Driess (Saracens), referees: W J Erickson (Australia)

Davies pulls out of tour with knee injury

WALES have lost a fourth player from their tour of Africa after Leigh Davies, the Cardiff centre, withdrew from the team to meet Natal Sharks today with a knee injury serious enough to rule him out for two weeks. Mark Taylor, of Swansea, will take his place in Durban.

Also absent from the team originally selected to face Natal will be Mark Jones, who has an abscess on his lower back. Ian Gough, of Newport, replaces him. Jones, however, will be fit to face South Africa next week.

Australia will be at full strength to face Scotland tomorrow after both props passed fitness tests yesterday.

Richard Harry and Andrew Blades had influenza and a calf injury respectively. Australia are seeking to record their third win on consecutive Saturdays, after demolishing England and then outclassing Scotland in the first international last weekend.

On the domestic front, Leeds have announced a new structure that will allow seven neighbouring clubs to act as official "feeders" to the Allied Dunbar Premiership second division team, Roundhegians. West Leeds, West Park Bramhope, Old Modernians, Ledonsians, Huddersfield and Huddersfield YMCA are set to link up with the senior club.



Randell shows off the skills that have made him captain of New Zealand after only one full season of international rugby

Randell reaches the pinnacle

There could be no better place for Taine Randell to launch a new era in New Zealand captaincy than from Dunedin's famous old ground, Carisbrook. They call it "The House of Pain" — the suffering is done by opponents of the All Blacks — but when Randell played his first international there, against Australia last year, the scarified banners heralding the House of Taine.

Randell himself has been a scartie — a student at the University of Otago, one of the many who used to congregate on the old ash bank at Carisbrook. A double degree (with honours) in law and commerce indicates a capacity for learning equal to the rugby-playing ability that has earned him 12 international appearances and made him the warmest of tips for the national captaincy since he was awarded the leadership of the midweek XV on tour in South Africa in 1996.

Now, though, he has ascended the Mount Olympus of New Zealand sport — tomorrow he will captain the All Blacks for the first time, against England, on the ground where he has captained Otago for three seasons. Fittingly, when Randell was named last week in his new position, Sean Fitzpatrick was there to congratulate him, to hand on the flame.

Fitzpatrick, the stone-faced captain, was not everyone's selection to captain New

David Hands on the man succeeding a rugby legend as the All Blacks captain

Taine Cheyenne Randell, Maori on his father's side but whose mother's family came from Iglesden, in Scotland, does not believe that it will. His natural authority has been recognised by a succession of coaches, during five years in the first XV of Lindisfarne College in Hawke's Bay, for two years with New Zealand Colts and then with Otago, for whom he made a precocious debut at 17.

Robin Brooke, the lock, will be Randell's vice-captain, with whom he will share much of the off-field requirements. Michael Jones his role model. The flanker has been a reference point in New Zealand rugby since 1987: "I've always looked up to him, but until you play with him, you don't appreciate how good he is," Randell said. He is, like Jones, soft-spoken in public but hard as nails on the field, always involved as a No 8 — his favoured position — or blind-side flanker, which is where all but one of his caps have come.

Despite the preparations of the past two years (at 21 years and 275 days, Randell was the second-youngest player to lead a New Zealand side — in non-internationals — during the 1996 tour), this will be a nervous week for him. It cannot be otherwise. "It doesn't matter who the opposition is, we're playing for the All Blacks, preparing for the hardest match of our lives — it's as simple as that," he said.

Zealand in 1992, but, over five years and 51 matches, he became a core component of the All Blacks, the physical embodiment of an honoured tradition, confrontational, contentious, playing with gritted teeth through the pain barrier.

Randell will be different: at 23, it is inevitable, Fitzpatrick was 28 and an established member of the side when he assumed the captaincy. His successor has played only one full season of international rugby; where Fitzpatrick's glare could turn an interrogator to stone, Randell will adopt a more amenable line.

"Fitzzy has done so much for New Zealand rugby," Randell said. "Sean will always be there and one of the things he has warned me about is not to go over the top with this New Zealand team, which has so much experience in it. There are times when everything has been said and done and it's a matter for the captain just to be himself. At the highest level, players are always motivated. You're in the team as a player first, and if the captaincy takes away from the performance, that's important."

ROWING: BRITISH CREWS UNDER PRESSURE TO HOLD ON TO PLACING AS AUSTRALIAN THREAT LOOMS LARGE AT WORLD CUP AND HENLEY

Batten and Lindsay even matters Redgrave faces long haul

By Mike Rosewell, Rowing Correspondent

THE withdrawal of the men's coxless four from the Great Britain team in the second stage of the World Cup in Hazewinkel, Belgium, this weekend is nicely counter-balanced by the return to fitness and competition of Miriam Batten and Gillian Lindsay, the world double scull silver medal-winner last September, who missed the first round in Munich three weeks ago.

ing appearances — make their first appearances of 1998, producing an overall entry that includes 33 world champions from last year, in all, no less than 96 medal-winners of 1997 are involved. Britain's top performers in Munich, where they took the only World Cup gold, were Dot Blackie and Kath Bishop in the women's coxless pairs. This weekend, though, they will also have two Australian crews with which to contend. Britain's new lightweight women's double scull of Tracy Langlands and Jane Hall excelled in Munich when taking silver behind Denmark,

where Jamie Koven, of the United States, the world champion, headed the list. Xeno Muller, of Switzerland, the Olympic champion, returns after a year's sabbatical and took Cop, of Slovenia, the undefeated 1997 World Cup champion, is back in a single. Most of the 16 British boats in the 14 World Cup classes remain as in Munich. Two exceptions are a new Nottingham-based lightweight four, with the experienced Dave Lemon and Jim McNiven in the bow seats, and a reshuffled men's quad that includes Jonny Searle, the 1992 Olympic champion, back after 18 months recovering from injury.

STEVE REDGRAVE will attempt to win his seventeenth Henley Royal Regatta medal next month. The Great Britain world champion coxless four, with Redgrave in the No 2 seat, is defending the Stewards Cup that it won at a canter last year, but, after the recent injury to Tim Foster and with the high quality of entry this year, the task of the Leander-Oxford University crew will be considerable. The entry for their event includes the Australia crew that won the gold medal at the last Olympic Games and the renowned Denmark lightweight Olympic gold medal-winning and world champion crew who have produced

times close to their heavy-weight counterparts in leading competitions. The overall Henley entry of 552 crews is a record, bettering the previous best of 547 in 1996. Of this total, 118 are overseas crews, from 19 nations including Guatemala, Chile and Turkey, who are at Henley for the first time. The Grand Challenge Cup eights has attracted national crews from Argentina, France, Germany and Britain, while the Diamond Challenge Sculls has 67 entries, which must be reduced to 24 after qualifying races. Greg Searle, the holder, and Jamie Koven,

the world champion from the United States, are the ones to watch. Maria Brandin, of Sweden, defends her women's sculls title but Guin Batten, of Britain, must be hopeful after beating her for the first time in Munich recently. The eleventh Henley Women's Regatta this weekend has drawn a record 245 entries. Crews from the United Kingdom face a bigger than ever foreign entry from the United States, Canada, Ireland, South Africa, Denmark and Germany. The event, which has expanded considerably in recent years, will be staged tomorrow and Sunday, with more than 200 races.

Average UK audiences stood at 48,000 per programme pre-World Cup but the channel peaked at 200,000 for the Jamaica-Croatia match. Much time and expense has been invested in its tournament campaign, which offers live or repeat performances from 6am to 1am daily. "We set ourselves an impossible task but it's working quite well," Lovejoy said. Chile versus Austria, an awful game, did not help Robson. How do you provide colour when there is none? MacPherson tried his best — "you can't disguise it, it's the bland leading the bland" and his novice sidekick chipped in willingly. He will have better days. RUSSELL KEMPSON

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THE WORLD CUP TODAY

GROUP D

SPAIN v PARAGUAY

FROM ROB HUGHES

Spain, the only seeded nation to lose their opening match at this World Cup, reacted petulantly — complaining about their own team rather than accepting that Nigeria are an exceptional side from the emerging continent, with quite wonderful courage in twice coming from behind to overtake Spain.

Javier Clemente, the Spain coach, admitted that he is wrestling with the solution of filling the anchor role of Josep Guardiola, who is not playing because of injury. Against Nigeria, Spain could not hold their lead despite having four centre backs — Nadal and Hierro in front of Alkorta and Ivan Campos.

Tonight here in St-Etienne, the Spaniards, who had previously lost only once in 32 matches, will surely make amends against a Paraguay team that, although tenaciously and with some cunning make the best of sparse resources, is dominated too much by the personality, skills and antics of the goalkeeper, Chilavert.

Paraguay versus Bulgaria was one of the few first-round bops. If that was painful to watch, all back sufferers will sympathise with Celso Ayala, one of Paraguay's dependable defenders. He is suffering from chronic lumbago and the Paraguay paramedics have consulted Fifa's medical committee on what pain-killers will be allowed, but Chilavert, the captain, said that Ayala will play.

Spain have more alternatives to choose from. While all the attention has been on Zubizarreta's *faux pas*, Raúl got away with three appalling missed opportunities from only yards out against Nigeria, even if he did score with one sweetly timed volley. If the attack needs more punch, Fernando Morientes has proved he can provide it. But it will be a surprise should Spain lose a second time, or indeed be held by Paraguay.

SPAIN (probable 4-4-2): 1 A Zubizarreta — 18 C Aguilera, 20 M A Nadal, 4 R Alkorta, 12 Sany — 8 F Hierro, 18 G Amor, 21 Luis Enrique, 11 Alfonso — 10 Raúl, 7 F Morientes.

PARAGUAY (probable 4-3-1-2): 1 J Chilavert — 4 C Gamara, 5 C Ayala, 11 P Sanchez, 10 R Ayala — 16 J C Enciso, 13 C Ramirez, 18 C Morales — 15 M Barzola — 21 J Campos, 18 C Ramirez.

Referee: J McLeod (South Africa).

COVERAGE: Television: BBC1 (from 7.30pm); Eurosport (from 8.30pm); Radio: BBC Radio 5 Live (from 7.30pm); Talk Radio (from 8pm); Kick-off: 8pm.

HOT SHOTS

- 3: M Sales (Chile), C Vieri (Italy).
- 2: L Hernandez (Mexico).
- 1: César Sampaio (Brazil), J Collins (Scotland), D Eggen (Norway), M Hadji (Morocco), A Nashed (Morocco), R Baggio (Italy), P Nikolic (Cameroun), A Polster (Austria), M Rieper (Denmark), C Dugary (France), T Henry (France), F Hierro (Spain), Raúl (Spain), M Adzopli (Nigeria), R Peltzer (Mexico), S Oliseh (Nigeria), He Seok Ju (South Korea), G Batistuta (Argentina), S Mijatovic (Yugoslavia), M Staric (Croatia), R Prosenicki (Croatia), D Suker (Croatia), R Earle (Jamaica), A Shearer (England), P Scholes (England), A Iile (Romania), A Möller (Germany), J Klinsmann (Germany), H Rio (Norway), C Burley (Scotland), Ronaldo (Brazil), Rivaldo (Brazil), Bebeto (Brazil), I Vastic (Austria), L di Biaggio (Italy), A Nielsen (Denmark), B McCarty (South Africa).

IN THE NET

- The Times World Cup 98 <http://www.the-times.co.uk/worldcup>
- Coupe du Monde 98 <http://www.france98.com>
- Fifa 1998 World Cup <http://www.fifa.com>
- BBC World Cup 1998 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldcup>
- Yahoo World Cup <http://www.yahoo.co.uk/wc98>
- Sky <http://www.sky.co.uk/worldcup>
- Football 365 <http://www.football365.co.uk>

Sunday July 12	Final	8pm	Stade de France	tba, R5L/Talk	FINAL
Saturday July 11	Third-place play-off	8pm	Parc des Princes	tba, R5L/Talk	THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF
July 9 & 10 REST DAYS					
Wednesday July 8	Winner 9 v Winner 12	8pm	Stade de France	tba, R5L/Talk	SEMI-FINALS
Tuesday July 7	Winner 10 v Winner 11	8pm	Marseille	tba, R5L/Talk	SEMI-FINALS
July 5 & 6 REST DAYS					
Saturday July 4	11. Winner 6 v Winner 8	3.30pm	Marseille	tba, R5L/Talk	QUARTER-FINALS
	12. Winner 5 v Winner 7	8pm	Lyons	tba, R5L/Talk	
Friday July 3	9. Winner 1 v Winner 3	3.30pm	Stade de France	tba, R5L/Talk	QUARTER-FINALS
	10. Winner 2 v Winner 4	8pm	Nantes	tba, R5L/Talk	
July 1 & 2 REST DAYS					
Tuesday June 30	7. Winner 6 v Runner-up H	3.30pm	Bordeaux	tba, R5L/Talk	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
	8. Winner H v Runner-up G	8pm	St Etienne	tba, R5L/Talk	
Monday June 29	5. Winner F v Runner-up E	3.30pm	Montpellier	tba, R5L/Talk	
	6. Winner E v Runner-up F	8pm	Toulouse	tba, R5L/Talk	
Sunday June 28	3. Winner C v Runner-up D	3.30pm	Lens	tba, R5L/Talk	
	4. Winner D v Runner-up C	8pm	Stade de France	tba, R5L/Talk	
Saturday June 27	1. Winner B v Runner-up A	3.30pm	Marseille	tba, R5L/Talk	
	2. Brazil v Runner-up B	8pm	Parc des Princes	tba, R5L/Talk	
Friday June 26	Group H Japan v Jamaica	3pm	Lyons	ITV, R5L/Talk	
	Group I Argentina v Croatia	3pm	Bordeaux	BBC, R5L/Talk	
	Group G Romania v Tunisia	8pm	Stade de France	BBC, R5L/Talk	
	Group F Colombia v England	8pm	Lens	BBC, R5L/Talk	
Thursday June 25	Group E Belgium v South Korea	3pm	Parc des Princes	BBC, R5L/Talk	
	Group H Holland v Mexico	3pm	St Etienne	BBC, R5L/Talk	
	Group F Germany v Iran	8pm	Montpellier	ITV, R5L/Talk	
	Group I United States v Yugoslavia	8pm	Nantes	ITV	
Wednesday June 24	Group C France v Denmark	3pm	Lyons	BBC, R5L/Talk	
	Group D South Africa v Saudi Arabia	3pm	Bordeaux	BBC, R5L/Talk	
	Group A Spain v Bulgaria	8pm	Lens	ITV, R5L/Talk	
	Group D Nigeria v Paraguay	8pm	Toulouse	ITV	
Tuesday June 23	Group B Italy v Austria	3pm	Stade de France	ITV, R5L/Talk	
	Group B Chile v Cameroon	3pm	Nantes	BBC, R5L/Talk	
	Group A Scotland v Morocco	8pm	St Etienne	BBC, R5L/Talk	
	Group A Brazil v Norway	8pm	Marseille	BBC	
Monday June 22	Group G Colombia v Tunisia	4.30pm	Montpellier	BBC, R5L/Talk	
	Group G Romania v England	8pm	Toulouse	ITV, R5L/Talk	
Sunday June 21	Group F Germany v Yugoslavia	1.30pm	Lens	BBC, R5L/Talk	
	Group H Argentina v Jamaica	4.30pm	Parc des Princes	ITV, R5L/Talk	
	Group F United States v Iran	8pm	Lyons	BBC, R5L/Talk	
Saturday June 20	Group H Japan v Croatia	1.30pm	Nantes	ITV, R5L/Talk	
	Group E Belgium v Mexico	4.30pm	Bordeaux	BBC, R5L/Talk	
	Group E Holland v South Korea	8pm	Marseille	ITV, R5L/Talk	
Friday June 19	Group D Nigeria v Bulgaria	4.30pm	Parc des Princes	ITV	
	Group D Spain v Paraguay	8pm	St Etienne	BBC, R5L/Talk	
Thursday June 18	Group C South Africa 1 (McCarthy 52) Denmark 1 (Nielsen 13)			36,500	
	Group C France v Saudi Arabia	8pm	Stade de France		
Wednesday June 17	Group B Chile 1 (Sales 70) Austria 1 (Vastic 90)			30,392	
	Group B Italy 3 (Di Biaggio 8; Vieri 75, 89) Cameroon 0			35,500	
Tuesday June 16	Group A Scotland 1 (Burley 67) Norway 1 (H Rio 46)			30,236	
	Group A Brazil 3 (Ronaldo 9; Rivaldo 45; Bebeto 50) Morocco 0			33,266	
Monday June 15	Group G England 2 (Shearer 42; Scholes 90) Tunisia 0			54,587	
	Group G Romania 1 (Iile 45) Colombia 0			37,572	
	Group F Germany 2 (Möller 9; Klinsmann 65) United States 0			43,815	
Sunday June 14	Group H Argentina 1 (Batistuta 28) Japan 0			33,400	
	Group F Yugoslavia 1 (Mijatovic 73) Iran 0			30,392	
	Group H Jamaica 1 (Earle 45) Croatia 3 (Stanic 27; Prosenicki 53; Suker 69)			38,058	
Saturday June 13	Group D Spain 2 (Hierro 21; Raúl 47)			33,257	
	Group E South Korea 1 (He Seok Ju 27) Mexico 3 (Palafox 51; Hernández 74, 82) 37,588			75,000	
	Group E Holland 0 Belgium 0				
Friday June 12	Group D Paraguay 0 Bulgaria 0			27,650	
	Group C Saudi Arabia 0 Denmark 1 (Rieper 68)			38,140	
	Group C France 3 (Dugary 35; Issa 78, og; Henry 90) South Africa 0			55,077	
Thursday June 11	Group B Italy 2 (Vieri 10; R Baggio 85, pen) Chile 2 (Sales 45, 50)			31,800	
	Group B Cameroon 1 (Njanku 77) Austria 1 (Polster 90)			33,480	
Wednesday June 10	Group A Brazil 2 (César Sampaio 4; Boyd 73, og) Scotland 1 (Collins 38, pen)			80,000	
	Group A Morocco 2 (Hadji 38; Hadda 59) Norway 2 (Chippo 45, og; Eggen 61) 29,750				

The top two teams in each group qualify for the second round. Teams finishing level on points are split by: 1, goal difference; 2, goals scored; 3, the result between the tied nations; and 4, the drawing of lots

THE GROUPS

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	0	5	1	9	6	5
Norway	2	0	3	3	2	2	3
Scotland	2	0	2	3	1	1	3
Morocco	2	0	1	2	5	1	3
Italy	2	1	0	5	2	4	4
Chile	2	0	2	3	3	2	2
Austria	2	0	2	2	2	2	2
Cameroon	2	0	1	1	4	1	1
Denmark	2	1	0	3	1	4	4
France	1	1	0	3	0	3	3
South Africa	2	0	1	1	4	1	1
S Arabia	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Nigeria	1	1	0	2	2	3	3
Bulgaria	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Paraguay	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Spain	1	0	1	2	3	0	0
Mexico	1	0	0	1	1	3	1
Belgium	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
Holland	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
South Korea	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Germany	1	1	0	0	2	3	3
Yugoslavia	1	1	0	0	1	3	3
Iran	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
US	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
England	1	1	0	0	2	3	3
England	1	1	0	0	2	3	3
Romania	1	1	0	0	1	3	3
Colombia	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Tunisia	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
Croatia	1	1	0	0	1	3	3
Argentina	1	1	0	0	1	3	3
Japan	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Jamaica	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

GROUP D

NIGERIA v BULGARIA

FROM BRIAN GIANVILLE

On the face of it, Nigeria, such surprising 3-2 victors against Spain, should win again here in Paris against a Bulgaria team that looked dull and flat in their goalless draw with Paraguay. "God was with us," the irrepressible Bora Milutinovic, managing his fourth team in the World Cup finals, said. Whoever would have thought that Nigeria would beat Spain, after their two heavy defeats in pre-tournament matches, not least against Holland, where they conceded five goals against a team without Dennis Bergkamp. Nigeria's one worry may be that they will not always find a goalkeeper as obliging as the hapless veteran Spain goalkeeper, Zubizarreta, in whom his manager, Javier Clemente, has an almost iconic faith, however misplaced.

Not that the Nigeria defence was especially impressive against Spain. None of the four men at the back, including the fearsome Internazionale stopper, Taribo West, and Celestine Babayaro, of Chelsea, was wholly convincing. The right back, Oparaku, was probably the weakest player in the side.

Best of all was the gifted attacker, Okocha, while the winning goal by Oliseh, who was generally not at his best, was spectacular to a degree. Ikebe, of AS Monaco, was perhaps a little uneasy at being used as the central striker.

As for Bulgaria, they have grown old together, despite the fact that Letchkov, a star in the 1994 finals, has been left at home. Balakov, such an important playmaker in 1994, had a poor game against Paraguay, but will probably play. No more convincing was the big centre forward, Penev, who was eventually replaced by another old hand in Emil Kostadinov.

NIGERIA (probable 4-4-2): 1 P. Okocha — 2 M Oparaku, 6 T West, 5 U Uchevura, 3 C Babayaro — 20 V Ikebe, 15 S Okech, 11 G Lawe, 10 J Okocha — 5 M Adedoyin, 7 F George.

BULGARIA (probable 4-4-2): 1 Z Zdravkov — 3 T Ivanov, 2 R Kostalov, 4 P Pashov, 6 Z Yanakov — 10 K Balakov, 14 M Hristov, 51 Yordanov, 7 E Kostadinov — 9 L Penev, 8 H Stankov.

Referee: M F Sánchez Vautier (Chile).

COVERAGE: Television: ITV (from 4.50pm); Eurosport (from 4pm); Radio: BBC Radio 5 Live (from 4pm); Talk Radio (from 4pm); Kick-off: 4.30pm.

CARDS

YELLOW

- Austria: A Pfeiffer, P Schottl; Belgium: L Spelens, E Deflandre; Brazil: César Sampaio (2), Aldir, Junior, Batato, Baggio; Chile: A Neri, H Stochkov, T Ivanov; Cameroon: S Issa, P Wome, P Njanku, D Angbwa, R Song, Chiké, N Parnaguez, C Adufa, F Rojas, M Vilmarov, F Essy, M Sales, I Zamorano, Simic, Desessard, A Nielsen, M Rieper, M Wiegandt, M Schönborg, J High, P Schmeichel, England: S Carragher, P Scholes, D Deschamps, E Pott, Z Zdravkov, Germany: J Jenemies, D Hamann, J Hennrich, Italy: A di Livio, F Cannavaro, A Costacorta, L di Biagio, Jamaica: D Burton, Japan: M Hara, E Nakatani, T Hirano, Mexico: J Orozco, A Garcia Espin, Morocco: S Chiba (2), A Hadda, Nigeria: U Okocha, Norway: K Rindal, H Berg, Paraguay: M Barzola, Romania: I Filipescu, D Munteanu, D Petrescu, Saudi Arabia: K Al-Muwali, Scotland: D Jackson (2), G Durie, South Africa: D Nyathi, A Phiri, P Issa, L Radebe, South Korea: Lee Min Sung, Spain: C Amor, M A Nadal, J Campos, Tunisia: J Clayton, J Ben-Younes, K Ghomane, United States: F Hejduk, E Pope, Yugoslavia: Z Petrovic, D Stojkovic.

RED

- Bulgaria: A Nankov, Cameroon: R Kalla, Norway: Desessard, M Moller, M Wiegandt, Holland: P Kluyvert, South Africa: A Phiri, South Korea: He Seok Ju.

TELEVISION

All matches also shown live or in full on Eurosport. BBC and ITV details after June 26 (depend on first-round results)

RADIO

R5L: Radio 5 Live, 909 and 693 MW; Talk Radio, 1053 to 1089 MW; All times EST

THE CHAMPIONS

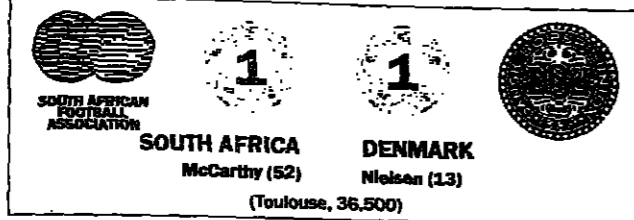
- Brazil 1958, 1962, 1970, 1994
- Italy 1934, 1938, 1982
- Germany 1954, 1974, 1990
- Uruguay 1930, 1950
- Argentina 1978, 1986
- England 1966

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WORLD CUP 98

Dismissal of three players in Toulouse puts spotlight on Colombian official

Referee's card games diminish stirring spectacle



FROM MATT DICKINSON

THE confirmation that perimeter fences will inexplicably keep the England supporters penned in here on Monday night is a sign of the paranoia that is enveloping what is normally an elegant and embracing city.

Arrogant and colour-blind was Kevin Keegan's sharp criticism of John Jairo Toro Rendon, the Colombian referee, and there is little doubt that the managers of these two teams would have been equally vehement had they not had to conform to Fifa protocol.

Lucas Radebe, the South Africa captain, accused the referee of ruining the game. "He punished every mistake," the Leeds United defender said, "and you never knew which card he would show. It was impossible to play the game normally."

groin just ten minutes after arriving as a substitute and could hardly coplain.

Alfred Phiri, a South Africa substitute, blatantly swung an elbow into Thomas Helveg's face barely a minute later, while, having seen those two decisions, Morten Wieghorst deserved to be sent off for stupidity alone as he tripped McCarthy from behind just two minutes after coming on as a replacement.

If there was a criticism of the referee, it was the aloof manner with which he ran the game, which undoubtedly added to the players' growing frustrations. Strutting around, brandishing cards with his nose in the air, he was an irritating figure and certainly raised the hackles of Peter Schmeichel - not that it takes much to do that.

The Manchester United goalkeeper was lucky not to have joined the exodus to the dressing-room after he had been cautioned for time-wasting. He made an obscene gesture to the Denmark fans to mock the referee and, should it have been seen by Fifa officials, he could yet face the wrath of the world governing body.

The only man pleased with events yesterday will have been Sepp Blatter, the next Fifa president, who so misguidedly called for stricter officials despite the fact that the rest of the world seemed perfectly happy. For the rest of us, it spoiled an afternoon



McCarthy celebrates the goal that brought South Africa their first point in the World Cup finals in Toulouse yesterday

when South Africa won their first point in the World Cup finals, bouncing back from the heavy defeat to France and a first-half pounding when they could easily have fallen three or four goals behind.

They were in arrears after just 12 minutes when Allan Nielsen finished a move inspired by Brian Laudrup. Chelsea's new signing cut down the right flank and crossed to the far post where Nielsen had an easy finish.

It should have been the first of many, with Jorgensen hitting the post directly from a corner and Sand rattling the

same piece of woodwork from the edge of the penalty area. Having squandered those opportunities, Denmark bizarrely decided to sit on their lead. With France to come, they may yet rue their lack of adventure in the second half.

After such a shaky opening, when their midfield and defence appeared to be communicating by semaphore, South Africa grew in confidence with Mkhalele and McCarthy beginning to run at the Denmark defence.

The Europeans could not cope with their pace, and their ponderous play was exposed

after 52 minutes when McCarthy began to justify his reputation as one of Africa's great prospects. Moshoeu darted into the heart of the Denmark rearward and laid the ball into Bartlett who had his back to goal.

The striker cleverly flicked the ball on to McCarthy who darted between Hogg and Colding before sliding the ball through Schmeichel's legs. The goalkeeper, it is fair to say, was not happy.

Schmeichel's fury would have known no bounds had Nyathi's shot been an inch lower after 90 minutes, but it cannoned off the crossbar. As

a football contest, however, the game had long since ended with the trio of dismissals in an 18-minute spell.

Denmark (4-4-2): P Schmeichel (Manchester United), S Colding (Borussia Dortmund), M Plesner (Celtic), M Schonberg (Augsburg), M Wiegman (Celtic), M Korner (Augsburg), T Nielsen (Koblenz), A Nielsen (Tottenham Hotspur), M Laudrup (Lazio), sub: J Hestermann, Beyer (Leipzig), O Fortner (Augsburg), E Sand (Borussia), sub: M Molnar, Real Betis, 58) SOUTH AFRICA (4-4-2): J Vonk (SC Heerenveen), M Pien (Borussia Dortmund), P Issa (Manchester), L Radebe (Leeds United), D Nyathi (St Gallen), sub: D Buntz, M Schum, 89, H Mkhalele (Augsburg), J Moshoeu (Feyenoord), B Augustinus (Luzenik), sub: A Phiri, Vansop, 49, O Fortner (Augsburg), Mkhathazi, S Bartlett (Cape Town Spurs), sub: P Mkhomo, 59, 77, B McCarthy (Ajax), Referee: J Toro Rendon (Colombia)

Maldini must settle on most striking plan

FROM BRIAN GLANVILLE IN PARIS

DO NOT mention the staffetta to Cesare Maldini, the coach of Italy; he simply will not hear of it, or even have it mentioned. Staffetta means "relay" and the expression was coined in Mexico in 1970, when, at the World Cup, Gianni Rivera was wont to replace his rival, Sandro Mazzola, at half-time in the Italy midfield. Until, that is, it came to the final against Brazil, when Mazzola was playing so well that a humiliated Rivera came on only for the last six minutes.

Now the term is being raised in relation to Roberto Baggio and Alessandro Del Piero, or else using both players, either side of Christian Vieri, in a three-man attack.

Maldini brought on Del Piero for Baggio in the second half against Cameroon. But it was not a staffetta, he insisted: he believed in replacing a tired player and he wanted, anyway, to give Del Piero a run in a competitive game.

Interestingly, none other than Mazzola is now hotly opposed to the staffetta. "A staffetta decided in advance," he said, "is an enormous error. Either both men play, or you have to say right away who is the first choice." Which leaves Maldini with the same intriguing problem as before.

How far can the Italians go? They should win this group now with only the indifferent Austrians, their ancient foes, to confront.

"Certainly avoiding Brazil isn't a bad thing," the amiable but rather disappointing Dimetrio Albertini, brother of a priest, said afterwards, "but the important thing is to get through the first round."

This would probably mean a second-round game against the runners-up to Brazil, none of whom look especially formidable; in fact, Italy's ten men drew with the Norwegians in New Jersey in 1994.

Optimism among the Italian press corps is limited, however. "It's the worst Italian team for 12 years," one journalist said, "and we could eventually be meeting France." For the moment, the Italian journalists have called off their dogs from Maldini, but he himself admitted that after his team's second successive bright start and

early goal, "fear" set in, after a bright first 25 minutes.

Fear of what, you wondered? Howard Wilkinson, England's observer of the game, even spoke of paranoia. Where does this fear come from? From Italy's football history? From Maldini himself, hardly the most adventurous of managers?

Cameroon, when down to ten men, were still allowed to force the pace for much of the second half, even if they could produce only one shot of any consequence from the substitute, Job, which Pagliuca turned over the bar.

"A difficult game," Fabio Cannavaro, the stopper, who had no Marcello Salas to outjump him this time, said. "The important thing is to win. They can't ask us to do much more. Cameroon got back into the game, but



Maldini: unadventurous

it didn't matter. We won."

The parts of the Italy team, however, continue to be greater than the whole. In the early stages of the game, Italy's through-passes were penetrating the Cameroon defence so easily that you wondered just how many goals they would score. But having got one they stood back, even after the proper expulsion of Kalla for a bad foul on Di Biagio, who has given new vigour to Italy's midfield and headed an enterprising goal into the bargain. But with Albertini ineffectual, the burden of playmaking rests heavily on either Baggio or Del Piero.

Baggio, badly and painfully fouled from behind, remarked bitterly: "If the referee had applied the rules, Cameroon would have ended the game with five men."

Rivals planning to keep reputations intact

GOALKEEPERS may be different, but even they are only human. When Andoni Zubizarreta leads out Spain in St-Etienne tonight, there will be pride laced with something alien to his Basque nature: a hint of fear.

At the kick-off, Zubizarreta will equal Peter Shilton's record of 125 international appearances, set at the 1990 World Cup. At some less determinable moment, the Spaniard's nerve will be put to the test after his alarming own goal against Nigeria on Saturday. What is more, it is more likely in this than any other game that Zubizarreta has played that the opposing goalkeeper could exploit his vulnerability by scoring against him.

Zubizarreta - goalkeeper, captain and assistant coach to Spain - is a nice, unassuming man who leads by example. José Luis Chilavert - goalkeeper, captain and, unofficially, the Paraguay manager - is not so nice, nor so unassuming. He has an in-your-face habit of telling an opponent what he will do and doing it. That includes scoring goals, which Chilavert has done dozens of times, from free play, free kicks and penalties, including four times in international matches.

Chilavert pays his respects to Zubizarreta's longevity. "He's one of the best goalkeepers

Rob Hughes on contrasting custodians with records on their minds

ers I know," he said. "Everyone makes mistakes, the press was too hard on him." Pause, then Chilavert, with a chilling gleam in his eye, adds: "My dream is to be the first goalie to score at a World Cup."

News travels faster than a goalkeeper across his line. The phone rang in Zubizarreta's room at the Spanish retreat in Chantilly. "Hey Papa," his 14-year-old son, a blossoming goalkeeper, greeted him. "Whatever you do, don't let Chilavert score against you." Thanks, son.

At least the boy looks forward rather than back. It would be kind to dismiss what happened against Nigeria as a once in a magnificent lifetime aberration, but the mistake follows another, in Zubizarreta's 122nd match for Spain, when he let the only goal through his fingers at the opening of the Stade de France in January.

Two such errors raise the

inevitable questions about age. The once dependable Zubizarreta, 36, had said that he would retire from the national team after this World Cup anyway, but just as there was a slight but palpable slowing in the reflexes, the movement and, perhaps, the eye in Shilton's last stand for England, these may be seeping into Zubizarreta now.

Javier Clemente, the Spain coach and Zubizarreta's fellow Basque, backs his goalkeeper unreservedly. "Zubi," he said the morning after the error, "is secure." Presumably, he meant that any way we wish to take it. Time and the next match will be the judge, but those around the camp feel that Clemente has no option but to stand by the man who is his rock in the dressing-room and whose calm authority is everything to team morale.

Zubizarreta also happens to be an uncommonly decent fellow, one who all Spain admires, a Basque who chose to live in the heart of the city of Barcelona rather than on the equivalent of millionaire's row with the other players, and the exception - the player who never accepted a peseta for his column in a newspaper, but donated the fees to children's charities.

None of which will spare him the intended strike from Chilavert at the Stade Geoffroy-Guichard tonight. The Paraguay goalkeeper, intimidatory and inflammatory, capable of spitting in an opponent's eye or slapping a reporter's face - or overriding his manager - produced the best shot of the goalless draw against Bulgaria a week ago, which was pushed over the bar.

Three goalkeepers of repute could all lose something tonight. Shilton will no longer exclusively hold the record. Zubizarreta might concede the first goal scored by a goalkeeper at a World Cup. And Chilavert could so very easily get sent off.



Zubizarreta, left, hopes Chilavert fails to embarrass him



Surely something lost in translation

Montpellier

The daily search for les papiers Anglais had a novel twist today. Luckily, the city of Montpellier on a fine, warm Thursday morning is so belle that I didn't much mind. Everything was pleasant, in fact. The taxi driver had a curly-haired lapdog with his companion, which rested between the front seats and winked its funny eyebrows at me. I told him he was my little cabbage and he wagged his tail. Meanwhile, Montpellier turns out to be a rather special, bright place where even the dirt is white and you sit under an umbrella and eat ice cream in a fine pedestrian square, near to fountains.

Anyway, "Avez vous les papiers Anglais?" I said, in the taxi. The proprietors pointed at a rack, and I followed the finger. At which point a young male Brit entered with the same question and I looked around, my usual helpful self. "That's what I'm looking for, too," I said. "They're here, apparently." My compatriot joined me at the foreign papers, and then, spotting the only English one (an Express), promptly snatched it and bore it away. Naturally, I raised an eyebrow, but had resignedly selected a L'Equipe instead, and was just puzzling over its

surreal front-page news story "L'Etat lance la machine," when my friend called out from the till. "You can have this," he said, appearing to relent his former rudeness. I smiled my gratitude - but too soon. "It's yesterday's," he explained. "I thought it was today's."

Reading L'Equipe with schoolgirl French isn't so bad, however, especially with the aid of fresh air and a citron presse. Italy versus the Cameroon had been exciting stuff in anyone's language, but it sounded even better as "les Transalpins teaching une belle leçon to les Lions Indomptables." In L'Equipe's match report, Cameroon's defence was described as "pas encore totalement mis en place" (you can say that again) and whereas you or I would say Cameroon's players got booked rather a lot, L'Equipe says the lions accumulated cautions, which conjures a much more interesting scenario.

Meanwhile their goalkeeper's "claquette de grande classe" in the 85th minute is evidently not as bad as it sounds. Though a claquette de grande classe certainly enters my vocabulary at once as a massive boo-boo, in the context it's a damn good kick. The dictionary gives "claquettes" as tap-dancing, incidentally. But I'm sure I'd



remember if he did one of those.

Down in the Esplanade Charles de Gaulle, the balmy festival atmosphere was, for me, like having a warm bath after climbing a mountain.

This is my first World Cup venue without puddles; my first day shopping in a provincial Galeries Lafayette's, so you'll have to excuse the occasional whoop of joy.

Unnumbered for once by weighty luggage, I airily stroled about; I made phone calls home saying "Can you hear the accordion? Does it sound French? Under tall, shady trees, an open-air charcuterie stall groaned under a hundredweight of

novelty sausages - maroon, knobby, green, or artfully rolled in grit. For the more squeamish customer, photographs of the pigs involved were thoughtfully stapled to the awning, so that we could see what happy lives they led before coming to such a ghastly end.

Oddly, there is no sign of the Football en musique extravaganza I'd been warned about. Instead, there was a tournament of "Baby-foot", or table football, which somehow compelled attendance. "Où est le baby-foot?" I kept demanding, once I'd read about it. I even rang the tourist office, and asked to know what time it was on, in case I'd missed it. "Est-ce que place à day, madame," they said, evidently mystified by my urgent tone. Once I found the baby-foot, of course, I understood their surprise. From the build-up in the leaflets, I expected a hushed crowd gathered around a giant screen. Whereas in fact, the Tannoy accompaniment of Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree, a few spotty boys played the old arcade game, pushing and pulling the handles as if they were milking cows.

On my blissful perambulations in the Esplanade, I admit to avoiding the happy downs and acrobats on stilts, but I make no apology.

Sometimes it's important to retain some idea of who you really are - in this case, a member of "Women Against Mime" and a resolute non-European on the humour issue.

Yes, I fear that until we can bring ourselves to laugh like drains at acrobats dressed in fright-wigs kicking their own bums and looking round to see who did it, I fear we Brits will never culturally join the Union. I once sat through a television awards ceremony in Parma which involved a comic turn with a dozen Charlie Chaplins agonisingly waggling their bony canes and falling over backwards. The British contingent just stared at the ceiling, counting flies.

But back with L'Equipe, we know precisely where we are - with kings of the jungle, for example, neatly stacking empty boxes, while goalkeepers from Cameroon execute a world-class soft-shoe shuffle. Meanwhile Italians take one look at the Coke machine and charge at it with spears, like knights at the court of King Arthur. Weird or what? "Une leçon de réalisme" is the headline in L'Equipe. Well, it's good to know somebody thinks so.

LYNNE TRUSS

Advertisement for William Hill featuring 'FREE £10 BET' and 'TODAY'S WORLD CUP ACTION' with betting odds for Nigeria vs Bulgaria, Spain vs Paraguay, and other matches.

WORLD CUP 98

'Happy Together? We're over the Moon River, Brian...'

Oliver Holt discovers that the England squad is very much on song

There is a competition within a competition in full flow during this World Cup. It is a contest masterminded, apparently, by the England captain, Alan Shearer, and the battle for supremacy is being fought out so ferociously that it seems to have captivated the entire squad as they seek to while away their spare time.

The contest, which involves the players trying to slip as many song titles as they can into each radio and television interview that they give, has only just begun at the Hotel du Golf in La Baule, the squad will spend the remainder of the tournament, but already a spirit of competitiveness has seeped in.

Gareth Southgate started the ball rolling by telling a reporter from Radio 5 Live that the team hotel was nice but that it was not quite Club Tropicana. Graeme Le Saux, renowned as the intellectual of the squad, took the competition to a new level. "By the way," he said, "did you know I've Got a Brand New Combine Harvester."

That, though, was just the equivalent of a group game. The senior squad members only really entered the fray in the second round, and they raised the stakes immediately. Tony Adams managed three titles in the first sentence of a BBC interview with Desmond Lynam, a man who is joked with for making the jokes himself.

Adams scored maximum points for eclecticism by leaping from the Pointer Sisters to Perry Como and then on to Eddie Cochran. "I'm So Excited," he said in response to Shearer's opening question. "I've had some Magic Moments in my career, but this is Something Else."

That brought Shearer, the master himself, into the contest at the quarter-final stage. In an otherwise typically staid interview with Gary Lineker, the England captain rose to the challenge that the other members of the squad had set him by throwing several Lionel Richie titles into the discussion.

As is his custom, he hit the target unerringly. He scored in the first second when he offered up "Hello, Gary" but



Bend Me, Shape Me: Adams may have injury worries, but his sense of humour is unimpaired. Photograph: Marc Aspland

exceeded himself when he moved on to an analysis of the significance of the team's victory over Tunisia last Monday and said: "We are all delighted but we're not exactly Dancing on the Ceiling."

He even managed to finish with a late strike, too. When Ray Stubbs, the BBC presenter, asked him whether the players were indeed having a competition, Shearer dismissed him with a deadpan line. "It's not true," he told Stubbs. "It's just your imagination."

It is not known yet who is leading the race towards the final or what the prize will be, or whether others will emerge to rival Shearer, Adams and the rest. What is apparent is that Shearer and his striking partner, Teddy Sheringham, are cleaning up in their self-appointed role as squad bookmakers.

Shearer admitted that he and Sheringham had started a book for the players to make small bets on all the World Cup games not involving England, and that so far the rest of the squad had proved to be typical mug punters. "It's not

sleepy, seaside resort about an hour to the northwest of Nantes, can drag, particularly when the squad trains in the morning and has the afternoon and evening to fill. Much of the time is spent watching the steady stream of matches

converted garage at the hotel that is proving a source of competitive tension. Gary Neville loses regularly to Paul Scholes at pool and Rio Ferdinand and Michael Owen were thought to be the masters of the Formula One driving machine.

That title, though, apparently belongs to Paul Ince. Angry at the claims of his Liverpool team-mate, Steve McManaman, that he was, in fact, the squad's answer to Michael Schumacher, Ince was insistent that he had set the fastest lap times. "I'm the number one driver," he yelled. "I'm the number one."

The World Cup, though, is still young, and as Glenn Hoddie keeps saying, it is all about peaking at the right time. The ultimate test, on July 12, will be whether they can regale us with a version of We Are The Champions.

in a video room that has been specially set up to take the BBC and ITV commentaries and pictures. However, the Football Association has also set up an extensive games room in a



'By the way, did you know that I've Got a Brand New Combine Harvester'

Graeme Le Saux

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Time beginning to heal the pain felt in Spain

At last, I'm starting to feel normal again. The first few days after I was left out of England's World Cup squad were absolutely awful. I even began to question my own ability and tie myself up in knots about why Glenn Hoddie had left me out of his party of 22 for France.

It didn't last long. In fact, a few minutes after I arrived back in England from La Manga, Alex Ferguson, my boss at Manchester United, phoned me and said "just go out there and make sure it doesn't happen again". He's right. I'm never going to let myself get in a situation where I am borderline again.

I am going to work so hard that I make myself a certainty because I never want to go through that experience again. We are back in pre-season training at United on July 9 and for me it really cannot come quickly enough.

The support that I have had from people within the game, and especially at Old Trafford, has been unbelievable. I've had letters of support and all sorts of people ringing me up. Bryan Robson called me to tell me not to worry about it. He must have gone to the trouble to find out my number and that was a great gesture.

I knew I had been left out the moment my brother, Gary, walked out of Glenn Hoddie's room. I was waiting in the corridor ready to take my turn and he looked absolutely gutted. He had just been told he was in the squad and he should have been happy, so I knew something was wrong. I walked into the room and sat down and the



Phil Neville on the despair of his omission from the England World Cup squad

manager just said: "I'm not going to take you to the World Cup." I felt as though I wanted to run out. Nothing he could have said would have softened the blow. He had an unbelievably hard job to leave six of us out and I would never criticise him for the decision he took. I just shook his hand and went out.

The journey back to England on the private plane that the FA had organised was pretty grim. We were all trying to console each other but there were long periods

when it all went quiet. It was a relief when we touched down and my dad and my girlfriend were there.

The first few days were hard. I made a point of phoning everybody I know because I knew they would want to speak to me and I wanted to get it out of the way. The whole thing about who had been left out was all over the papers for about a week. Once that finished and I had a few days' holiday in Marbella, it began to get easier.

Now, I'm as big a fan as anybody. I desperately want England to win the World Cup. I have watched all the games at home and it is fantastic to see so many brilliant players together in one tournament. On Monday, when Alan Shearer scored that first goal against Tunisia, I jumped up out of my chair like everyone else. I was delighted for Scholes, too, when he got the second. I don't think the players realise just how much support they have got at home.

I've got a lot of good friends in that squad so of course I want them to do well. I have spoken to Gary a few times and he is loving every minute.

He is not saying he is having a terrible time just to try to make me feel better. Gary is straightforward. He tells you what he thinks. Slowly, I am beginning to get used to the idea that I am not actually in the squad. It has taken a while and there is so much coverage of the tournament, so much detail about what is going on in the English camp, that there are times when I think "it could be me out there." I think the others who were left out are bound to be thinking that as well.

But I'm going out to Toulouse for the game against Romania on Monday to cheer the boys on. It will be great to see them and to tell them just how much it all means to everybody back home. Next time England play in a World Cup, though, I intend to be spending considerably more time with the rest of the boys.

A terrorist answers back

Malaya: The Undeclared War BBC 6.45pm

Rob Lemkin's exemplary documentary charts the post-war emergency in Malaya, which started 50 years ago when three British rubber planters were shot by communist guerrillas. It cuts a lucid path through a complicated story and is bolstered by first-hand accounts. One witness is particularly notable. Chin Peng was the leader of the guerrillas and regarded by the British, who had previously appointed him OBE for helping to defeat the Japanese, as a terrorist. Now a softly spoken old man with a genial smile, he gives what is claimed to be his first important television interview. He distances himself from the killing of the planters and other atrocities, denies that he was a tool of Moscow or Beijing and still blames the British for provoking the conflict. Former colonialists are quick to challenge his account.



Nick Fisher lands a catch at last (CA, 8pm)

Screaming Reels Channel 4, 8.00pm

If you are presenting an angling programme and fail to catch any fish, what are you to do? For Nick Fisher, trying to land a striped bass off Cape Cod in New England, the answer is to concoct a little yarn about having bad dreams, generally cracking up and resorting to the services of a shrink. Enter Michael Eichenseer, who tells Nick that fishing is an "intermittent reward structure" and suggests a mantra: "I will catch fish - they are always hungry." The advice seems to work, for a striped is duly caught. But it could be another dream. No wonder that Nick leaves shrinks behind as he takes himself off to New York and tries his luck in the waters around Manhattan. The programme may be a lesson in how to fill time with minimum content, but it is enjoyable nonetheless.

Frasier Channel 4, 10.00pm

This is the last episode of the present series but another one, the writers, do their best to keep us guessing, not by getting Kelsey Grammer's Frasier sacked from his job at the radio station, Frasier is not usually one to stand on principle, as he proves by boiling out of a protest against the

closure of a famous Seattle bookstore. But when the station asks him to lend his name to a product he cannot bring himself to endorse, he suddenly finds a new resolve, refuses and is fired. This is a bad sign, for without Frasier's phone-in programme the show loses one of its key jokes, that the psychiatrist whose own life is a mess publicly dispenses advice to others. Beware, however, of jumping to conclusions, for the plot still holds a surprise or two.

TV Offer Channel 4, 11.00pm

A programme that talks to Hughie Green from the other side of the grave, mocks the recently deceased Linda McCartney for her singing voice and re-edits footage of the Prince of Wales so that he suffers from chronic flatulence is either hilarious or tasteless, depending on your point of view. Perhaps hidden away late at night where it is likely to attract less attention from those who might rather it was taken off the air. But whether he is unfair or not, the presenter Victor Lewis-Smith is often all too accurate in his barbed dissection of some of the crasser manifestations of popular television. To watch these and other programmes might report: those who can do, those who cannot become critics and bite the hand that supplies their material. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

The Friday Play: Estate Radio 4, 9.00pm

The optimistic notes sounded at the start of this play, as the Shall family is rehoused on the other side of town in a three-bedroom council house with a garden, soon turn to something more discordant, literally and figuratively, as the loud music from next door presages one of those disputes that at least two television series in recent months have found to be promising weapons in the ratings war. But Al Hunter Ashton's play has a raw edge of reality that few documentaries can deliver because they tend to deal in generalities whereas here the power of the conflict is in the detail. The Shall's try the last first but when that fails, Chris Shall (John McCardell) takes drastic action. Paul Barber plays the villain of the piece.

Lantern Concert: From the New World Radio 3, 1.00pm

Julian Joseph is a brilliant young British jazz pianist whose reputation reaches new audiences every time he broadcasts, as was apparent after a Proms appearance a couple of years ago when the tired cliché about bringing the house down justified being dusted off and given another airing. Here he gives a recital of improvisations based on American jazz classics, including work by George Gershwin, Duke Ellington, Rodgers and Hart and Cole Porter. Joseph has the knack of giving a fresh feel to familiar work without tearing the original apart at the seams and putting it back together in some inferior form. Today's set also includes one of his own compositions, Solo Piano/Guardian Angel. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

6.30am Kenner Greening and Zeb Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 10.15 News 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearson 6.00 Pale Tong's Essential Selection 8.00 Judge Jules 11.00 Westwood: Radio 1 Rap Show 2.00am Fabio and Grooverider 4.00 Emma B

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Debbs Throver 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night. Introduced by Alan Kay from the Hippodrome, Glasgow, and racing from Royal Ascot 7.00 News Extra with Gary Robertson 7.30 World Cup 98 Spain v Paraguay Ian Payne introduces commentary from the group D game in St Eamonn 10.00 Late Night Live, including Papertrail and The Financial World Tonight 1.00am Up All Night with Richard Daltyn

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme with Victoria Derbyshire and Eleanor Oldroyd 8.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News with Alan Robb 1.00pm Ruscoe and Co. Includes racing from Royal Ascot 4.00 Nationwide and World Cup 98. Includes the group D game between Nigeria and Bulgaria, and racing from Royal Ascot 7.00 News Extra with Gary Robertson 7.30 World Cup 98 Spain v Paraguay Ian Payne introduces commentary from the group D game in St Eamonn 10.00 Late Night Live, including Papertrail and The Financial World Tonight 1.00am Up All Night with Richard Daltyn

TALK RADIO

9.00am Scot Chesholm 12.00 Loraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.30 Sport 6.30 Muz Dea 8.00 Sport 10.00 Mike Allen 2.00am Mike Dehn

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Mendelssohn (Violin Concerto in D minor); Lyadov (The Enchanted Lake); Pedro de Cristo (Ave Maria)

9.00 Masterworks, with Peter Hobday. Includes Kabalevsky (Capriccio Italiano); Bach (Four Duets, BWV802-5); Kabalevsky (Violin Concerto); Mozart (Symphony No 41, K.551)

10.30 Artist of the Week: Cecilia Bartoli 11.00 Sound Stories: Five Biblical Characters. Donald Macleod examines the Virgin Mary who has been a perpetual source of inspiration to composers of all styles and periods

12.00 Composer of the Week: Beethoven 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert: From the New World. See Choice

2.00 The BBC Archive: Jack Brymer, Susan Sharpe talks to the leading British clarinetist of his generation

4.00 Music Restored, with Chris de Souza (r) 4.45 Music Machine: Cabaret. Tommy Pearson visits London to see if the cabaret scene is thriving today as in the past

5.00 In Tune, with Anthony Carpenter talks to the soprano Julia Milgrem her about her career which has spanned film, television, opera and musicals

11.00 (FM) News: What's in a Name? An amusing guide to the business of naming names (r) 11.30 (FM) One Flat Summer. A satirical drama by David Sheehy, with Gerard McDemott (r)

12.00 (FM) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast 12.00 (FM) News; You and Yours 12.57 Weather 12.04pm (LW) Test Match Special 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.30 (FM) Who Goes There? Martin Young chairs a quiz looking at famous people 1.30 (LW) Test Match Special 1.30 (FM) News; The Archers (r) 2.15 (FM) Afternoon Play: Fair Game. A psychological thriller by David Simpson. Tom is initiated with his employee Sue and starts to suspect her to sexual harassment. With Christian Rodska and Maggie O'Neill

3.00 (FM) News; Veg Talk: 0171-580 4444. Charlie Hicks and Greg Wallace address listeners' fruit and vegetable queries. With guest chef John Torode and gardening expert Lynda Brown 3.30 (FM) What's Yours? A line of five very different couples talks to Rory Cellan-Jones about the part money plays in a relationship, a subject which can be more explosive than sex (5S) 3.45 (FM) Winstrate: Bluewater Bridges. Written and read by Ian Rashid. A motherhood story which takes a wry look at romance, colonialism and sexuality

WORLD SERVICE

7.00am News 7.15 World Cup Roundup 7.30 Pick of the World 8.00 News 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 Music Review 9.00 News. (646 only) News in German 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Westway 9.30 John Peel 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 The Learning World 10.30 Speaking of English 10.45 Sport 11.00 Newsdesk 12.30 Newsdesk 12.30pm Focus on Faith 1.00 News; (648 only) News in German 1.05 World Business Report 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 You and the Law 1.45 Sport 2.00 Newshour 3.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.05 News 4.05 Football 4.15 Songs of Home 4.30 Science in Action; (648 only) News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Britain Today 6.00 News 6.15 Insight 6.30 The New Europe; News in German 6.45 (648 only) 6.45 Sport 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 Focus on Faith 8.00 News 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 Multitrack: Alternative 9.00 Newshour 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 News and Politics 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Insight 11.45 Sport 12.00 News 12.15 Outlook 12.30 Multitrack: Alternative 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 From the Weeklies 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Songs of Home 2.45 Short Story 3.00 Newsday 3.30 People and Politics 4.00 News 4.08 World Business Report 4.15 Sport 4.30 Insight 4.45 Off the Shelf

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Breakfast with Bailey 8.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones plays listeners' favourite music 2.00pm Concerto. Lisa (Concerto No 1 in F major, 8.00 Johnnie Coyle 6.30 Newsday with John Burt Foster 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven 8.00 Evening Concert. Bertini (Overture, Le Corsaire); Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 1 in F sharp minor); Dvorak (Symphonic Variations) 11.00 Marm at Night 2.00am Concerto (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Chris Evans 10.00 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Paul Coyne 7.00 Johnny Boy's Wheels of Steel 11.00 Johnnie Lee Grace 2.00am Mark Collins

RADIO 4

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FREQUENCY GUIDE: RADIO 1, FM 97.8-99.3, RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2, RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8, LW 720, MW 720, RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 892, 930, WORLD SERVICE, MW 648, LW 196 (12.45-5.55am), CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO, FM 106.8, MW 1197, 1215, TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1069. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

A spoonful of subtlety helps the medicine

This week Thursday night was medical night. Channel 4's *Cradle to Grave* continued with a thorough examination of the attitudes of the medical establishment. BBC2 monitored the *Doctors*; BBC1 offered consultations and minor procedures in their *Children's Health* season. Even *Celebrity Countdown* (Channel 4) showed the residents of sheltered accommodation at play.

However, last night's most protracted operation was *Bramwell* (ITV), the second of its two-hour features in the fourth series of this turn of the century hospital drama. It is a potent prescription, a sort of feminist novella set in Jack Ripper's East End: Merchant Ivory's version of *Casualty*, complete with intrusive social problems, an interfering administrator and endless discord over the politics of funding. The only thing missing was a cry of "Crash!"

followed by the use of a hand-cranked steam-defibrillator. It would be easy for a 1990s drama based on a pioneering female doctor to turn into a gender-studies monograph. *Bramwell* avoids this triumphantly through shrewd characterisation and Gemma Redgrave's superb performance. She emerges as a complex mixture: driven, almost obsessive, fiercely independent yet vulnerable, intelligent but unworriedly, insufferably priggish but impulsive and passionate, defiant but riddled with guilt.

Bramwell is a very "difficult" woman, as such women must often have been. The subtleties of what could be very melodramatic stuff are clinically protected by the restraint of the script and the direction. The dialogue is consistently quiet and low-key, even at moments of high drama.


The result is often extremely intense. *Bramwell* is pregnant by

Major Guy Quarrie and decides to have the baby at a convent where it will be given up for adoption. Her interview with the nun who tells her no man will want a wife who is not virtuous, that she will have no contact of any description with the baby after two weeks and that the nuns hope to teach her humility was spine-chilling.

Even the sex is appropriately restrained. No naked three-in-a-bed romps here, just a glimpse of stockings and ankle. But then, as the early cinema shows us, this was a powerful erotic turn-on at the time, and the production managed to recreate some of that highly-charged old-time tremulousness.

The story hung on the morality of prostitution and was driven by *Bramwell*'s obsessive desire to find the little girl she had unwittingly sent out to be pimped by her prostitute mother's madam. This tour of

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

Dickensian back-street low-life was counterpointed by a hard look at the use of prostitutes by middle-class men, particularly her embittered colleague, Dr Marsham, but also, it transpires, by the late husband of the administrator, Mrs Bruce.

The ruination of young children takes more insidious forms these days. Let Them Eat Crisps (BBC2) was a deeply depressing survey of

the rapidly increasing problem of childhood obesity in the *Children's Health* season. Today one in five children are considered fat, with one in twenty seriously obese, and that proportion is rising rapidly.

Having been fat for most of my childhood, and having returned to the original portly condition after a most fortuitous slim period in my late teens and twenties, I know only too well what misery this can bring. But I don't think this programme would have brought much consolation or real help to those grappling with the problem, since so much of it was descriptive hand-wringing.

I kept asking myself what sort of a society treats its children like this. One mother, whose daughter was slim, sent her to school with chocolate spread sandwiches, crisps and a chocolate bar. Others admitted to the ceaseless indulgence of demands for chips and visits to burger outlets. Several

families gave their children no fruit or fresh vegetables until this was suggested by medical advisors.

Recommending restraint rather than counter-productive bans, a community dietician suggested cutting down from four packets of crisps a day to two, or even one. By the time we got to the montage of starchy, fat-ridden sugar-coated low-fibre, vegetable-free school dinner dishes I was experiencing severe couch-rage.

When they told us that the last Government had privatised the school dinner service with no health requirements of any description, I wanted to see somebody's head on a spike. Many countries heavily restrict food advertising to young children; we don't. I expect lousy diet will turn out to be a factor in producing the malfunctioning brains which think football hooliganism is a

kind of hobby.

Declining levels of exercise turned out to be the other key factor, especially now that parents are terrified to let their children play outside, but public policy on this issue appears to be little short of cretinous. Come back the nanny state, all is forgiven!

In a flurry of appalling corny banter, *Celebrity Countdown* (Channel 4) concluded its gently jolly run. Richard Whiteley is one of those people who actively revels in bad jokes, the more groansome the better, with Carol "The Word at the Board" Vorderman as his all-too-willing straight-person.

Last night's show was graced with two *Times* writers, Alan Coren as a "challenger" and Matthew Parris in the dictionary corner, and I am sad to say that they both rose to the occasion with spectacularly corny contributions of their own. It was a deeply shaming experience.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (18155)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (68529)
 - 9.00 All Over the Shop Hosted by Paul Ross (1) (758222)
 - 9.20 Killy (1) (1712833)
 - 10.00 The General (4906)
 - 10.30 Royal Ascot Preview of the final day of the Royal meeting (7781258)
 - 10.50 News (7) and weather (4974529)
 - 10.55 International Cricket: Tony Lewis introduces the early action on day two of the Lord's Test (6446979)
 - 12.30pm Neighbours (7) (5171616)
 - 12.55 Turning Points Spike Milligan recalls a turning point in his lengthy career as comedian, writer and jazz musician (1) (46293722)
 - 1.00 News (7) and weather (61615)
 - 1.30 Regional News (97250797)
 - 1.40 Royal Ascot Clara Balding and Willie Carson introduce coverage of the 2.30 King Edward VII Stakes; 3.05 Hardwicke Stakes; and 3.45 Wokingham Stakes (94900635)
 - 4.00 The Littlest Pet Shop (6799635) 4.10 Bailey Kupper's POV (5979548) 4.35 The Mask (570277) 5.00 Newsworld Competition winner 13-year-old Amy Neilson, from Edinburgh, reports on her VIP trip to France to watch Brazil v Scotland (7) (7202141) 5.10 Blue Peter, Katy Hill and Richard Bacon bring the Blue Peter Millennium Time Capsule in the Millennium Dome (7) (6275109)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (1) (7) (796000)
 - 6.00 News (7) and weather (432)
 - 6.30 Regional News (864)
 - 7.00 Top of the Pops Videos and live performances of the latest chart sounds (7) (2074)
 - 7.30 World Cup 98 Live: Spain v Paraguay (Kick-off 8pm). Desmond Lynn introduces the second of today's games in the so-called Group of Death at the Stade Geoffroy-Guichard in St Etienne. Commentary by Barry Davies and Trevor Brooking, with analysis from Alan Hansen and Martin O'Neill (7) (690818)
 - 10.00 News (7) regional news and weather (88722)
 - 10.30 Radioland Murders (1994) Spool 1930s thriller, with Mary Stuart Masterson, Brian Benben, Ned Beatty and George Burns. An American radio station is plagued by a series of unexplained murders. Directed by Mel Smith (7) (78841364) WALES: 10.30 Scrum V. Highlights from South Africa. The Natal Sharks v Wales (105242) 11.15 FILM: Radioland Murders (973038) 1.00am Royal Ascot Highlights (6321933) 1.25 News 1.30 BBC News 24
 - 12.15am Royal Ascot Highlights Review of the final day of the royal meeting (4328262)
 - 12.40 The House of Seven Corpses (1973) With John Ireland and Faith Domergue. A horror film director and his camera crew soon regret using a haunted house for location work. Directed by Paul Harrison (3772846)
 - 2.05 Weather (8451204)
 - 2.10 BBC News (24)

- BBC2**
- 7.00am Teletubbies (1) (2920277) 7.25 Goober and the Ghost Chase (2836884) 7.50 50/50 (1) (2630345) 8.15 Yogi's Space Race (713109) 8.35 Pingu (1) (7583819) 8.45 The Record (4119884)
 - 9.10 Belief File (1990548) 9.30 Watch (8061093) 9.45 Come Outside (8086548)
 - 10.00 Teletubbies (1) (47548) 10.30 Look and Read (7039000) 10.50 Folk Dance (773234) 11.10 Landmark (1387906) 11.30 Job Bank (7666838) 11.50 Teaching Today Plus (1177203)
 - 12.30pm Cricket: Second Test — England v South Africa (11548)
 - 1.00 Open a Door (1) (2547560) 1.05 Working Lunch (39465277)
 - 1.35 Cricket: Second Test Live coverage of this afternoon's session from Lord's (9490906)
 - 3.55 News (7) and weather (3300277)
 - 4.00 Royal Ascot, Cricket and Women's Tennis Royal Ascot the 4.20 King's Stand Stakes; Cricket, England v South Africa. Women's Tennis: The quarter-finals in Eastbourne (65456364)

- BBC3**
- 6.00am GMTV (2588890)
 - 9.25 This Morning (7) (4224600)
 - 9.30 Vanessa (1) (1688548)
 - 10.10 This Morning (7) (39758242)
 - 12.15pm Regional News (1029987)
 - 12.30 News (7) and weather (85154)
 - 1.00 Surprise Chefs (83884) 1.30 House Hunters (45925) 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (7) (4678529) 2.45 Waleys. What's My Line? (435616) 2.45 Garden Calendar (7) (435616)
 - 3.15 News (7) (3015093)
 - 3.20 Regional News (9012906)
 - 3.25 Potamus Park (900528) 3.35 Big Bag (887384) 3.45 Animal Street: The Bold Lion (339432) 3.55 Bernard's Watch (831616)
 - 4.15 World Cup 98 Live: Nigeria v Bulgaria Coverage of the Group D match from the Parc des Princes, Paris (7) (75973616)
 - 6.30 News (7) and weather (940155)
 - 6.50 Regional News (282258)
 - 7.00 Take Your Pick Gameshow with Des O'Connor (7) (4242)
 - 7.30 Coronation Street Leanne is rocked by the realisation that she holds Whately's fate in her hands; and Judy receives some surprising news. With Jane Denson and Gaynor Faye (7) (364)

- HTV**
- 1.00pm Special Babies (63884)
 - 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (5542180)
 - 2.45-3.15 Surprise Gardeners (435616)
 - 1.25am Club@vision (7388117)
 - 1.20 Robocop (619933)
 - 2.10 World Football (29100594)
 - 3.35 Coach (8607662)
 - 4.00 Vanessa (830833)
 - 4.35 Central Jobfinder '98 (6655372)
 - 5.20 Asian Eye (6738846)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
- 1.00pm Special Babies (63884)
 - 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (5542180)
 - 2.45-3.15 Surprise Gardeners (435616)
 - 1.25am Club@vision (7388117)
 - 1.20 Robocop (619933)
 - 2.10 World Football (29100594)
 - 3.35 Coach (8607662)
 - 4.00 Vanessa (830833)
 - 4.35 Central Jobfinder '98 (6655372)
 - 5.20 Asian Eye (6738846)

- CHANNEL 5**
- 6.00am Sesame Street (1) (32113)
 - 7.00 The Big Breakfast (7) (64567)
 - 9.00 Schools: Off Limits (9755616) 9.25 Schools at Work (422242) 9.30 Eureka (8076161) 9.45 Stop, Look and Listen (3764003) 10.02 Lost Animals (829344)
 - 10.10 GNVQ. Is It for You? (8076108)
 - 10.30 English Programme (894155) 11.15 Stage One (8000806)
 - 11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier Oatmeal and mussels, gratin of crab, Highland berry brulee (8426) 12.00 Sesame Street (70703) 12.30pm Light Lunch with guest Emma Forbes (34600) 1.30 Australia Wild (45677)
 - 2.00 The Yellow Balloon (1953, b/w) Thriller with Andrew Ray who is forced by criminal William Sylvester to take part in a robbery that ends in murder. Also with Kenneth More. Directed by J. Lee Thompson (7) (55277)
 - 3.30 Watercolour Challenge (258)
 - 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (7) (203) 4.30 Countdown (7) (5744316) 4.55 Ricki Lake: The Party's Over. You're Gone! Have a Baby! (7) (7443797) 5.30 Pet Rescue (7) (16357)
 - 6.00 TFI Friday Chris Evans talks to Melanie Sykes. Music is provided by Black Sabbath, Eagle-Eye Cherry and Matchbox 20 (14635)
 - 7.00 Channel 4 News (7) (946155)
 - 7.55 The Political Slot (146088)
 - 8.00 Screaming Reels Nick Fisher visits Cape Cod and New York to catch snapper bass and bluefish (7) (4432) 8.30 Brookside Will Peter continue to stand by Lindsey? (3567)
 - 9.00 Cybill: Earthquake Cybill vows to change her life and career (7) (3161)
 - 9.30 Spin City: Radio Daze Mike becomes embroiled in a mock re-election between the mayor and a shock jock (7) (19180)

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder N 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder N 63 are picture 5.025075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz.
- 6.00am 5 News and Sport (6141180)
 - 7.00 WideWorld (7) (8324451) 7.30 Milkshake! (3261068) 7.35 Wind in the Willows (2164906) 8.00 Havakazoo (1) (4387971) 8.30 Dappledawn Farm (1) (4386242)
 - 9.00 Realm of the Polar Bear (7) (7) (447322) 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (7) (4919887) 10.20 Sunset Beach (7) (629345) 11.10 Leaza (642613)
 - 12.00 5 News at Noon (7) (4420259) 12.30pm Family Affairs (7) (4420259) 1.10 The Bold and the Beautiful (7) (8323722) 1.30 Sons and Daughters (4298242) 2.00 Per Cent Gold (1461123) 2.30 Open House with Gloria Hunniford (949606)
 - 3.30 The Secret Life of Kathy McCormick (1988, TVM) with Barbara Eden, Josh Taylor and Jenny O'Hara. Romantic comedy about a woman who is a shop worker by day and society lady at night. Directed by Robert Lewis (6607345)
 - 5.10 The Oprah Winfrey Show: Mary Kay Letourneau (1334074)
 - 6.00 100 Per Cent (625249)
 - 6.30 Family Affairs Holly says farewell to her holiday romance (7) (1297121)
 - 7.00 5 News (7) (6312659)
 - 7.30 Wildlife SOS. The woodpecker is released and the hedgehog family find a new home. New admissions to the centre include a baby bat; a fox with pelvic injuries; and a badger (7) (4379105)

VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+

the numbers after each programme code (e.g. 105242) refer to the relevant programme in your video recorder (e.g. 105242).

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The Straits Times

OW IT'S 525000 FOR PUBLIC

Chin Peng, the Malaysian guerrilla leader (6.45pm)

Jeff Stewart stars as the hapless Heals (8pm)

8.00 The Bill: Three Cheers Hollis's colleagues are not amused when he accidentally gets a great result (7) (6890)

8.30 Kavanagh QC A man is admitted to hospital having been knocked down by a car driven by a local vigilante. His mother believes this was no accident and calls in Kavanagh (7) (63432)

10.00 News at Ten (7) and weather (78380)

10.30 Regional News (871635)

10.40 World Cup 98 — Entour! Jim Rosenthal presents highlights of Spain v Paraguay and Nigeria v Bulgaria (2073971)

11.45 With a Vengeance (1992) with Melissa Gilbert, Brinkman, Jack Scalia and Michael Gross. An amnesiac woman embarks on a new life as a nanny, working for a single father who encourages her to hire a private investigator to uncover the secrets of her grisly past (7) (664093)

1.25am Nash Bridges (7) (4095136)

2.20 Club@vision featuring Logical Progression and DJ Brian Norman at Spill: A Choice (7055662)

3.00 War of the Worlds (7) (4761933)

3.55 We Can Work It Out (1) (3570662)

4.20 Sound Bites with Evelyn Glennie (6574463)

4.30 ITV Nightwatch (76515)

5.00 Coronation Street (7) (51198)

5.30 News (10778)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

- 12.15pm Westcountry News (1029987)
- 12.27-12.30 Illuminations (9059744)
- 1.00 The Woodward File (83884)
- 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (5542180)
- 2.45-3.15 Westcountry Update (435616)
- 6.50-7.00 Westcountry Live (282258)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

- 12.15-12.30 News and Weather (1029987)
- 1.00 Shortland Street (83884)
- 1.30-2.00 Quisine (45695)
- 2.45-3.15 The Antiques Trail (435616)
- 6.50-7.00 Meridian Tonight (282258)
- 11.45 Straight Up (916432)
- 12.00am Members Only (6199440)
- 12.40 Live at Janglebees (7824681)
- 1.10 Sound Bites (4080335)
- 5.00 Freecore (51198)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

- 1.00-1.30 Hope and Gloria (83884)
- 2.45 Gardens without Borders (435616)

S4C

Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (84567) 9.00 Off Limits (9755616) 9.25 Schools at Work (422242) 9.30 Eureka (8076161) 9.45 Stop, Look and Listen (3764003) 10.02 Lost Animals (829344) 10.10 GNVQ. Is It for You? (8076108) 10.30 English Programme (894155) 11.15 Stage One (8000806) 11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (8426) 12.00pm Ricki Lake (70703) 12.30 Sesame Street (195136) 1.00 Slot Melrhin (14115242) 1.15 Tomos Y Tanc (1411797) 1.30 The Three Stooges (21733242) 1.50 FILM: The Day of the Outlaw (8059161) 3.30 Watercolour Challenge (258) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (203) 4.30 Countdown (277) 5.00 5 Pump (5548) 5.30 Pet Rescue (529)

6.00 Newyddion (6) (895971)

6.10 Heno (566093)

7.00 Pobol y Cwm (448987)

7.25 Portreadau (643161)

8.00 Del a Tom (4432)

8.30 Neydau (3567)

9.00 Celebrity Countdown (3161)

9.30 Friends (19180)

10.00 Brookside (873971)

10.35 Babylon 5 (932703)

11.30 TFI Friday (546797)

12.35am Jo Whalley (8517914)

1.20 King of the Hill (6255759)

1.50 FILM: Maria Marten, or the Murder in the Red Barn (3029136)

3.05 FILM: The Face at the Window (5220469)

4.15 Ddwed (900952)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

- 6.00am The Velvet Touch (1988) (27155)
- 6.30 The Feast of Harlowe (1927) (71911)
- 7.00 Mumble Sticks Back (1998) (60608) 7.30 Games World (684797) 7.45 The Simpsons (36159) 8.15 Oprah (115839) 8.30 Helen (74519) 8.50 Star Trek: Voyager (10506) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (27242) 12.00 Married with Children (38787) 12.30pm MAFS (288979)
- 1.00 The News (62703) 11.00 The Sky Box Office (1989) (678751) 1.00 Gemini (4300803) 1.55 The Special K Collection (410277) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (625267) 2.55 The Special K Collection (634631) 3.55 The Special K Collection (637296) 4.00 Oprah (74519) 4.30 Star Trek: Voyager (10506) 5.00 Nanny (6838) 6.30 Married with Children (38787) 7.00 The Simpsons (36159) 7.30 The News (62703) 8.00 Helen (74519) 8.50 Star Trek: Voyager (10506) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (27242) 12.00 Married with Children (38787) 12.30pm MAFS (288979)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

- 4.00pm Amadeus (1984) (7178181) 6.00 King Kong (1933) (159109) 8.00 The Taming of Shrew (1929) (145824) 10.00 Fatal Attraction (1987) (232074) 12.00 Out for Justice (1991) (311730) 1.25am Finders Keepers, Losers Weepers (1987) (1190435) 2.50 Mac (1974) (810414) 4.00 Cocoo

SKY SPORTS 3

- 12.00m Trans World Sport (42266156) 1.00pm Equine World (5023884) 1.30 Live Tennis: Nottingham Open (1837272) 6.00 Live Soccer (285334) 6.30 Football (3616600) 7.00 Live Rugby Union (5066977) 9.00 Soccer (4842018) 10.00 Speedway (8373564) 12.00 Soccer

EUROSPORT

- 6.00am World Cup Premier (636161) 7.30 World Cup — La Liga (627919) 11.00 Rened-Vous France 28 (62742) 12.00 World Cup — La Liga (63639) 1.00pm Tennis: Hungarian Trophy — Live (41650) 3.00 Cycling: Tour of Switzerland — Live (6616) 4.00 World Cup — La Liga (63639) 6.00 World Cup — La Liga (63639) 7.30 World Cup — La Liga (63639) 9.00 World Cup — La Liga (63639) 10.00 World Cup — La Liga (63639) 11.00 World Cup — La Liga (63639) 12.00 World Cup — La Liga (63639)

UK GOLD

- 7.00am Crossroads (25229) 7.30m High Court (6627451) 7.55 Eastenders (5022625) 8.30 The Bill (734395) 9.00 The Bill (734395) 9.30m The Bill (734395) 10.00 The Bill (734395) 10.30m The Bill (734395) 11.00 The Bill (734395) 11.30m The Bill (734395) 12.00 The Bill (734395)

SKY SPORTS 1

- 7.00am Sports Centre (3451538) 7.15 Westing (49717) 8.15 Sports Centre Westing (49717) 8.30m Sports Centre Westing (49717) 9.00 Aerobics (52628) 9.30m Trans World Sport (42266156) 10.30 Rugby: World Cup — New Zealand v Argentina — Live (12000) 11.00m Light Lions (8380) 2.00m Dancin' (37109) 3.00m Eastenders (5023884) 4.00m Football: World Cup — La Liga (63639) 5.00m Football: World Cup — La Liga (63639) 6.00m Football: World Cup — La Liga (63639) 7.00m Football: World Cup — La Liga (63639) 8.00m Football: World Cup — La Liga (63639) 9.00m Football: World Cup — La Liga (63639) 10.00m Football: World Cup — La Liga (63639) 11.00m Football: World Cup — La Liga (63639) 12.00m Football: World Cup — La Liga (63639)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

- 6.00am Miracle on 34th Street (1973) (6749161) 7.40 Halli Halli Rock 'n' Roll (1967) (6817635) 9.40 Aladdin (1996) (1152277) 11.40 The Wind in the Willows (1983) (2119334) 1.20pm Miracle on 34th Street (1973) (6749161) 3.00 The Prince of Persia (1988) (682828) 4.00 The Wind in the Willows (1983) (2119334) 6.45 Alaska (1996) (8232616) 8.30 The Movie Show (1993) (682828) 9.00 Johnny Dagerdahl (1989) (8439772) 2.45 The Way to Dusty Death (1995) (9967178)

For further listings see Saturday's Vision

SKY 1

- 7.00am Tazooze Teenage Animal Fighters (26277) 7.30 Games World (684797) 7.45 The Simpsons (36159) 8.15 Oprah (115839) 8.30 Helen (74519) 8.50 Star Trek: Voyager (10506) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (27242) 12.00 Married with Children (38787) 12.30pm MAFS (288979)

SKY SPORTS 2

- 6.00am Sports Centre (3451538) 6.30m Sports Centre (3451538) 7.00m Sports Centre (3451538) 7.30m Sports Centre (3451538) 8.00m Sports Centre (3451538) 8.30m Sports Centre (3451538) 9.00m Sports Centre (3451538) 9.30m Sports Centre (3451538) 10.00m Sports Centre (3451538) 10.30m Sports Centre (3451538) 11.00m Sports Centre (3451538) 11.30m Sports Centre (3451538) 12.00m Sports Centre (3451538)

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TENNIS 50 Graf feels the pressure of younger generation

SPORT

FRIDAY JUNE 19 1998

TOMORROW Danny Baker plus complete Premiership fixtures



Rhodes and Cronje lead South Africa rally after England run through top order

Buoyant Cork rises to meet challenge

LORD'S (first day of five: England won toss): South Africa have scored 135 for four wickets against England

WHEN even the Lord's Test, that pillar of the sporting summer, is threatened by the twin impostors of weather and football, cricket has seldom been more desperate for a hero. Dominic Cork met the requirement yesterday, brushing the cobwebs from the superman outfit last seen in 1995 and giving England another day of ascendancy over South Africa.

It is too soon to be confident that a nation besotted by a different game may have its attention drawn by an alternative English success, for the South Africans, as is their nature, are already rallying. Cork, however, gave 30,000 people a welcome reminder of the bill-topping talent he brought to Test cricket three years ago and banished at least some of the frustrations of a damp and disjointed day. Play did not begin until 1.30pm and rain and bad light were to intervene three times more. Of four brief sessions, the first two belonged to Cork and England, the remainder to a spirited and unbroken fifth-wicket stand between Hansie Cronje and Jonty Rhodes, respectively sage and soul of the South Africa side. Cork, sprinting in from the Nursery End, took all four

wickets to fall and might have had more. Until he tired and erred in length late in his spell, an immaculate line allied to significant movement away from the right-handers made him a constant menace. He had marked his comeback with five wickets at Edgbaston a fortnight ago, but yesterday he bowled with the conviction of the re-established and the irrepressible skill that so sadly deserted him when declining form conspired with a distracted mind. His career at this level hung unhappily in the balance for some months, but his return has been sensitively handled and triumphantly timed. Shortly before the delayed tea interval, South Africa had lost their top four for 46 and Cork was boasting figures of four for 23. He was bustling and bristling in that way he has when the force is with him and, for a time, all things seemed in his sights. To capitalise fully on the advantage of the toss, England needed to divide the resourceful pair who have so often been South Africa's salvation. They came close, Rhodes in swift succession being dropped and caught off a no-ball, both by Michael Atherton, but a dangerous partnership, already worth 89, will resume this morning in predicted fine weather and on

a pitch of no terrors that a drying sun would not cure. England had been spared wholesale reorganisation when Alec Stewart woke with no further discomfort from his back. The two players summoned to cover for him were stood down, but the third late recruit, Steve James, was needed. As expected, Mark Butcher's thumb had not recovered sufficiently and James was presented with his first Test cap. By then, we had seen the opening of the new Grand Stand by the Duke of Edinburgh and one of those delays that can hold cricket up to ridicule as captains and umpires agreed that play would not be possible for two hours while the fast bowlers of both teams were tearing in off their full run-ups on the outfield. The surrounds were undeniably saturated, but this was poor public relations at a time when cricket can ill afford it. The problems of the game in competing for attention were re-emphasised by BBC Television missing the start, an omission shared by hundreds in the crowd who failed to

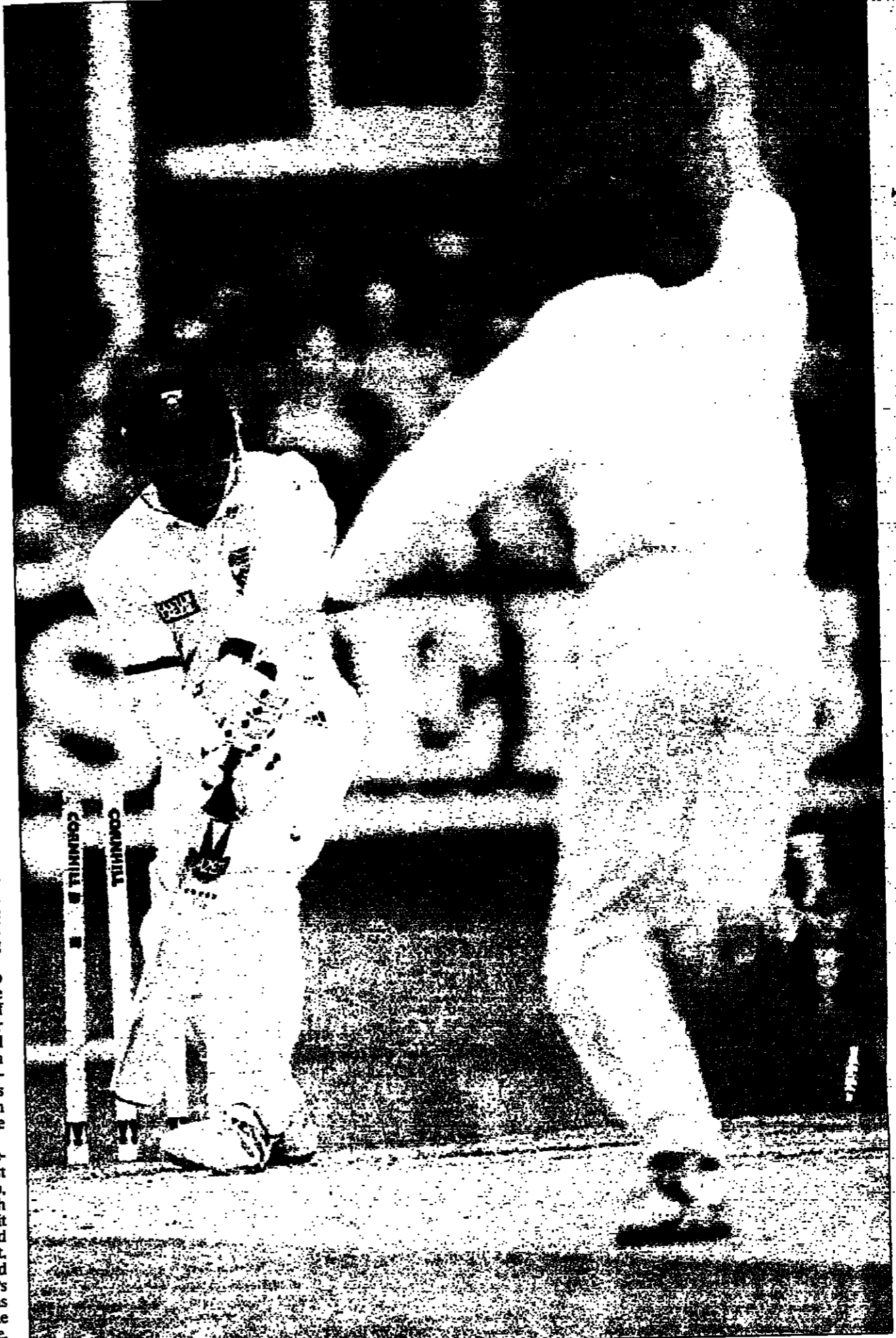
return from lunch until long after Cork had celebrated his second wicket. His first owed something to fortune as Gary Kirsten, failing to withdraw his bat definitely enough, dragged a ball of exemplary line and extra bounce into his stumps. To an extent, though, the wicket had been earned in Cork's previous over, his first, when he imposed doubt in Kirsten's mind by beating his outside and inside edge with consecutive balls.

Cork's third over was one to make the purists purr. He first beat Jacques Kallis with appreciable outswing, then confounded him with a ball that hit the off stump, past the outside edge, as Kallis groped diffidently forward. The rain returned after 30 minutes and the crowd reacted restively to one more example of pedantry when, at 2.40pm, it was announced that play would resume at 3.15. The crowd soon had another issue to debate as the third umpire adjudicated on the possibility that James, at short leg, had caught Cullinan via his boot. Bafflingly, on a ground where £150,000 has been spent on four fixed cameras, the appeal was denied after one inconclusive replay. Cork, the bowler involved, was not delayed long. Later in the same over he drew Bacher forward, seamed the ball away and took the edge. The same pair combined to dismiss Cullinan, forcing impetuously off the back foot. Stewart had been able to attack throughout and now he set two catchers in front of square on the on side for Rhodes and a man just behind for Cronje, who once again started shakily. Another wicket, and even South Africa's resilience would have been stretched, but England were denied.

Headley might have removed Rhodes in his first over. Atherton, at third slip, reacted late to a head-high chance and could only parry it with his left hand. He pouched another catch, low to his right, in the next over, but Cork had overstepped, and, as Rhodes's busy nudges and deflections became as productive as the booming drives of Cronje, England were never so threatening again.

Table with 2 columns: Player, Score. Includes Bacher 12, Cullinan 15, Cronje 2, etc.

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Kallis is bowled by Cork for nought, one of the seam bowler's four wickets on the opening day of the second Test

SCOREBOARD FROM LORD'S

Scoreboard table showing South Africa's first innings: A M Bacher c Stewart b Cork 22, G Kirsten b Cork 4, etc.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8 (Bacher 4), 2-16 (Bacher 12), 3-43 (Cullinan 15), 4-46 (Cronje 2).

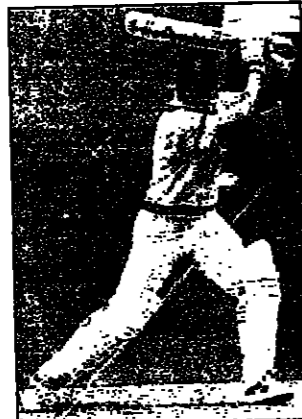
SCORING: Fraser 14-3-38-0 (5 fours); 10-3-38-0, 4-0-10-0, Cork 14-3-38-4 (nb 5; 1 wk; 9 fours; one spell); Cullinan 9-0-17-0 (4 fours).

SCORING NOTES: First day: Start delayed until 1.30pm (lunch taken at 12.30pm); 12 overs deducted; rain breaks 1.55, 3.15pm; 21-2 of 63 overs; 19 overs deducted; Test: 52-4 (19 overs, 87min; Cronje 3, Rhodes 4); Poor light 5.28 to 6.13pm; 16-4 of 51 overs; 12 overs deducted; Post light 6.25pm; Play abandoned at 6.50pm.

ENGLAND: M A Atherton, S P James, N Hussain, P A J Stewart, G P Thomas, M M Randall, M A Gidoni, D G Cork, R D B Croft, A R C Fraser, D W Headley.

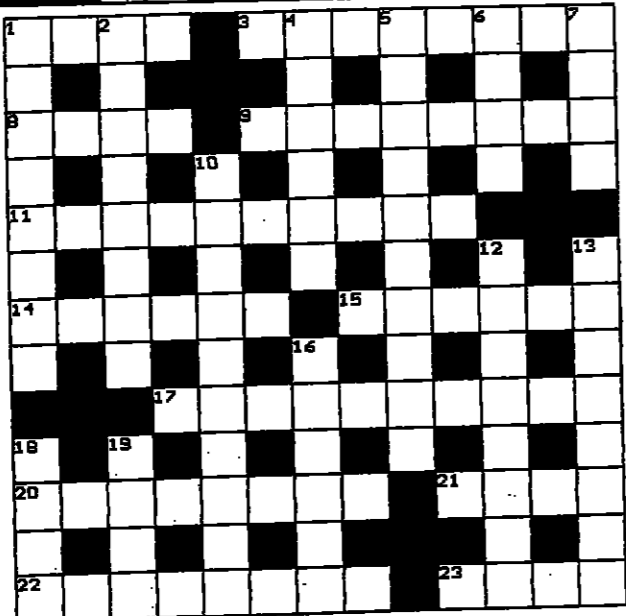
Umpires: D B Hair (Australia) and G Sharp, Third umpire B Dudson. Match referee: David Ponsford (Pakistan).

SERIES DETAILS: First Test (Edgbaston): Match drawn. To come: Third Test (Old Trafford): July 2-8. Fourth Test (Trent Bridge): July 22-28. Fifth Test (Windsorley): August 6-10.



Rhodes leads fightback

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1436

- ACROSS: 1 Brood, be sullen (4); 3 Rough comic verses (8); 8 Land force (4); 9 Wheelie a loan (8); 11 The wrong crowd to mix with (5,7); 14 Say from memory (6); 15 Corrupt behaviour (6); 17 Within reach: easy to understand (10); 20 Feeble person (8); 21 Therefore: monster (reversed) (4); 22 Physically real (8); 23 Contradict (4); DOWN: 1 Sword sheath (8); 2 One wounded, ineffective (4,4); 4 Take possession of, fill (6); 5 Without basis (10); 6 Tirade (4); 7 Edible bulb; sounds like liquid escape (4); 10 Primavera artist (10); 12 Scout gathering (8); 13 Ritual (8); 16 Edible part of nut (6); 18 Squash (fly) (4); 19 Win: profit (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1435 ACROSS: 1 Barren 7 Head-on 8 Magritte 10 Ethical 11 Lurcher 12 Disco 14 Naafi 15 Piety 19 Appease 20 Postern 22 Atlantis 23 Select 24 Deacon DOWN: 1 Bumble 2 Rag trade 3 Epiphany 4 Whet 5 Tahiti 6 Mosaic 9 Termagant 12 Displace 13 Semantic 16 Imogen 17 Toner 18 Lesson 21 Rate

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Hoddle begins to show his hand as Beckham plays second fiddle

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT IN ST-DENIS

THE early signs emerging from the England camp here yesterday suggested that Glenn Hoddle will continue to ignore the claims of David Beckham when his team steps up its attempts to qualify for the second round of the World Cup against Romania in Toulouse on Monday.

The Manchester United midfielder admitted on Wednesday that he had been "demonstrated" when Hoddle left him out of the team to play Tunisia in Marseille and played Darren Anderton in his right wing-back place. Beckham said he was desperate for a chance to prove himself and that he hoped to persuade Hoddle to reinstate him with his displays in training.

The preliminary stages of Hoddle's preparations for the Romania game, though, indicated that Beckham may be left on the sidelines again. Once more, it was Anderton, not Beckham, who played in what appeared to be the provisional first-choice team, which also had Michael Owen deputising for the rested Alan Shearer.

The selection process, of course, is still in its early stages and there is time for things to change. But even though Anderton was probably the poorest England player against the Tunisians, it would still be an unusual move for Hoddle to drop him from a winning team. Still, Hoddle's decision not to bring Beckham on even for 20 minutes at the end of the Tunisia game raised some

eyebrows, because Anderton's distribution appeared to grow increasingly erratic as the game wore on.

If Beckham had been in his place late in the game, England might easily have doubled their margin of victory. Against Romania, Beckham may at least be given the limited opportunity he craves.

If the issue of Beckham's selection is likely to dominate the preamble to the game on Monday, though, there may also be a late decision to be made about the composition of the England back three that

dealt so effectively with the Tunisians.

In normal circumstances, each of Gareth Southgate, Tony Adams and Sol Campbell, who was outstanding both at the back and going forward in the 2-0 victory, would have retained their places without question. Adams, however, has been struggling with a minor foot injury and Southgate is thought to have sustained a twisted ankle in training.

There were rumours that Adams's injury was worse than England officials were

admitting, that it was far more than the "sore feet" sustained on the hard pitch at the Stade Velodrome in Marseille to which Hoddle attributed his absence. But it seems that Adams will resume training today.

The injury to Southgate, though, will take longer to heal. Even the conservative estimate of John Gorman, Hoddle's assistant, suggested that he would not resume training until tomorrow, the day before the team leaves on its journey to Toulouse.

If Hoddle decides not to risk Southgate on the right side of the back three against a potent Romania attack that will test England to the limit, it could mean a recall for Gary Neville, the Manchester United defender who was unlucky to lose out to Southgate in the first place.

Neville would almost certainly be preferred to Martin Keown and Rio Ferdinand in the back three. As one of Beckham's closest friends, though, and the player who, with Teddy Sheringham, has been doing the most to attempt to help him get over his disappointment, Neville's return to favour would only increase Beckham's feelings of isolation.

The players are likely to be told the team tomorrow or Sunday...for a small group of them, it will be a long, tense wait until Hoddle names his starting line-up.

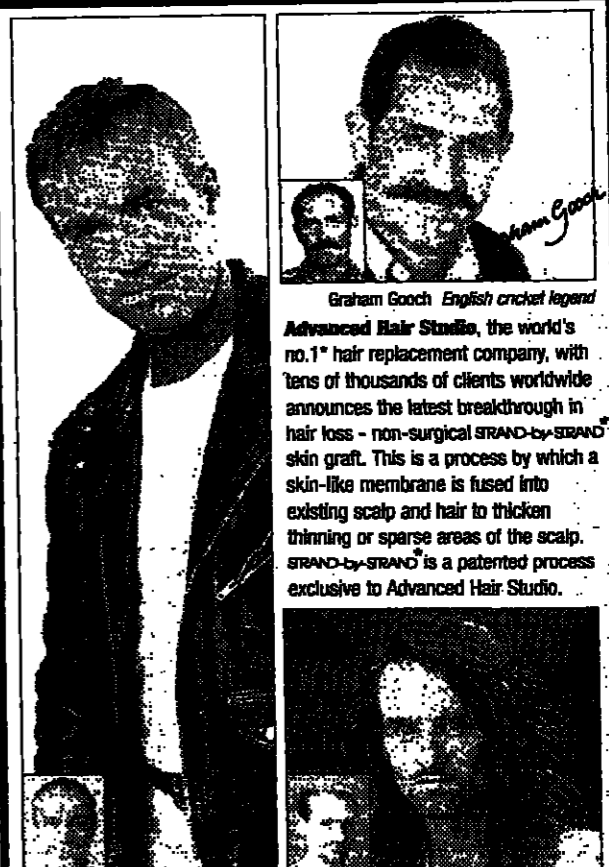


Beckham's woes increase during training yesterday

THE WORLD CUP TODAY page 52 Nigeria v Bulgaria (4.30 ITV)

Spain v Paraguay (8.00 BBC)

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